DEC/JAN 2003/2004 PRICE: HK$38

China

CHINA TOURISM

FOUR-WHEELED FREEDOM IN SOUTH CHINA

CHINESE MEDUSA — THE LONG-HORNED MIAO

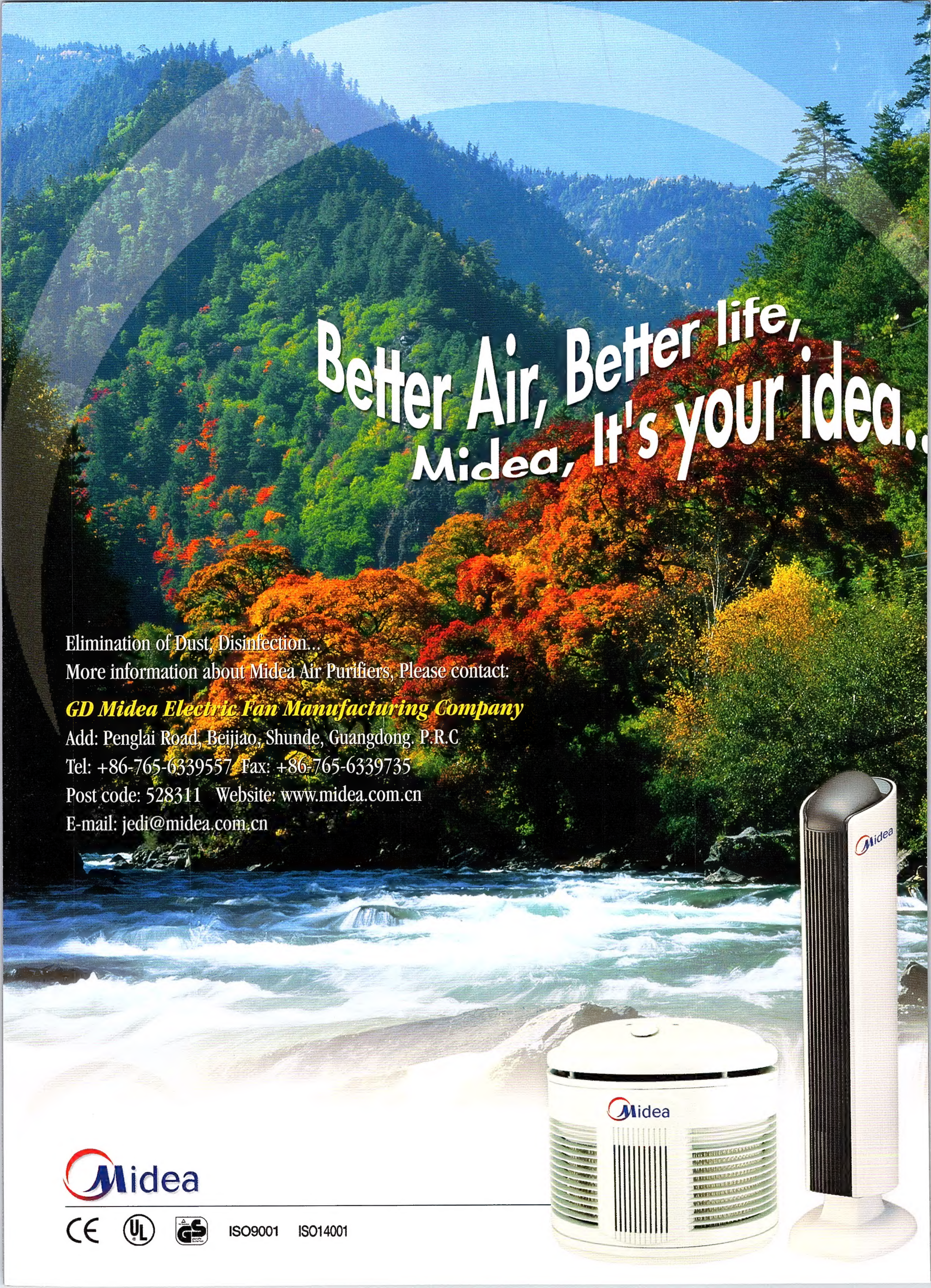
DESPERATE TIMES AT THE YANGTZE RIVER

281

ISSN 1025-577X

9 771025 577006

HK$38 / S$8.35(with GST) / US$6.95 / CAN$8.95

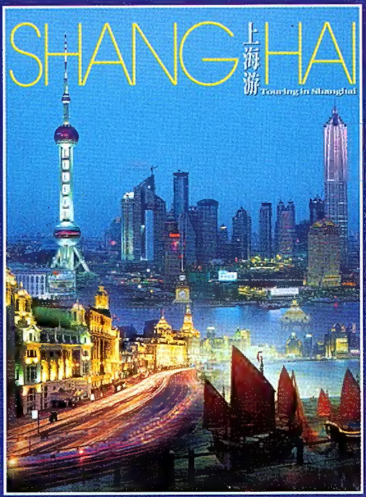

Better Air, Better life,
Midea, It's your idea...
Midea
Midea

Elimination of Dust, Disinfection...
More information about Midea Air Purifiers, Please contact:

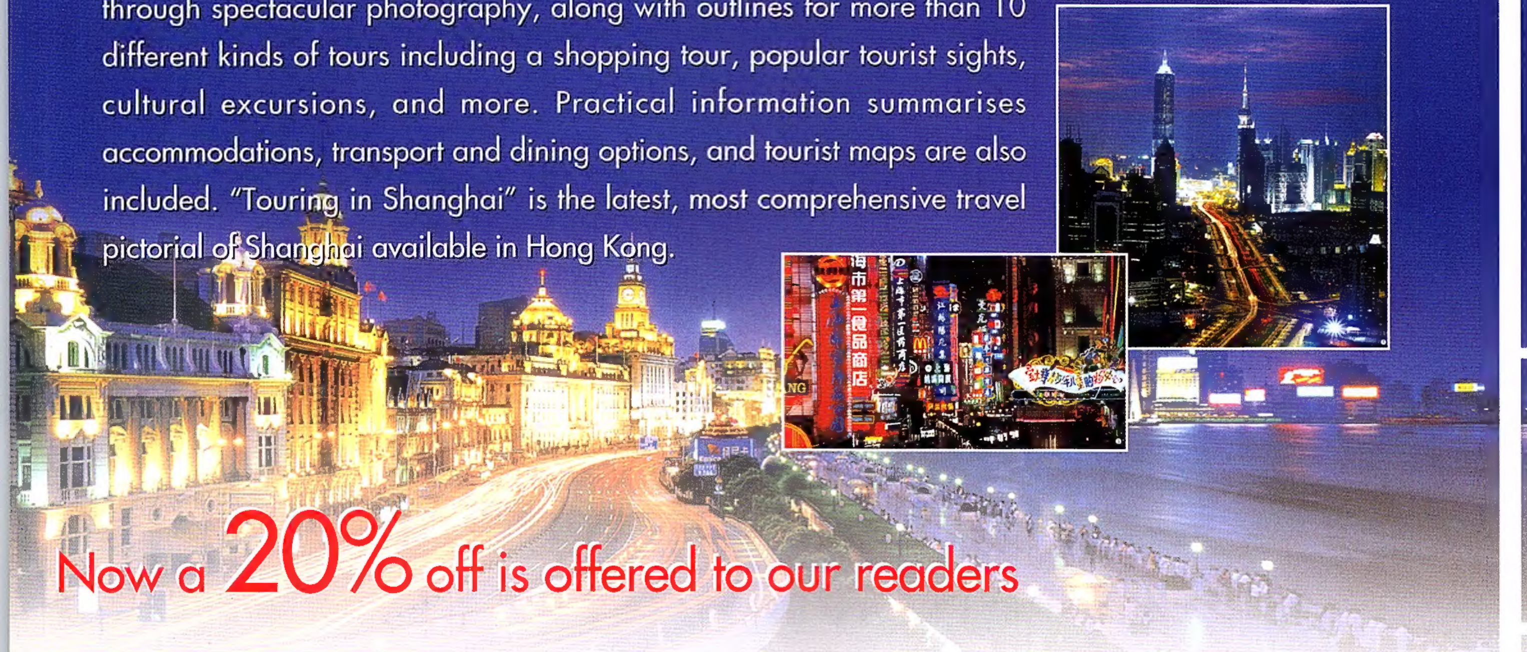
GD Midea Electric Fan Manufacturing Company
Add: Penglai Road, Beijiao, Shunde, Guangdong, P.R.C
Tel: +86-765-6339557 Fax: +86-765-6339735
Post code: 528311 Website: www.midea.com.cn
E-mail: jedi@midea.com.cn

Midea

CE UL GS ISO9001 ISO14001



Shanghai has evolved at an unprecedented speed for decades into the biggest commercial city in China and one of the great metropolises of the world. Favourably located at the mouth of the Yangtse River, Shanghai has a long history and a rich culture. Commercial tower blocks and traditional buildings exude their individual charms simultaneously in the Pudong District, where hundreds of buildings in different styles, old or new, are collectively known as the Exposition of World Architecture. A kaleidoscope of entertainments and festivals of Old Shanghai attracts scores of entrepreneurs and travellers alike. "Touring in Shanghai" takes you deeper into this vibrant city through spectacular photography, along with outlines for more than 10 different kinds of tours including a shopping tour, popular tourist sights, cultural excursions, and more. Practical information summarises accommodations, transport and dining options, and tourist maps are also included. "Touring in Shanghai" is the latest, most comprehensive travel pictorial of Shanghai available in Hong Kong.



Now a 20% off is offered to our readers

Original price HK$120.00
Discounted price
HK$96.00

Copies: ____________

Postage (Surface mail per copy):

☐ Hong Kong HK $15.00
☐ Macao, China, Taiwan HK $22
☐ Asian countries (except Japan) HK $36
☐ Non-Asian countries (including Japan) HK $38

Name: ____________ Subscription # ______ if applicable
Daytime tel.: ____________ E-mail address: ____________
Address: ____________

Payment method:

☐ Cheque enclosed made payable to 'Hong Kong China Tourism Press'
☐ Credit card ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER ☐ AE
Cardholder's name: ____________
Card number: ____________
Signature: ____________
Expiry date: ____________ Total amount (book + postage): ______

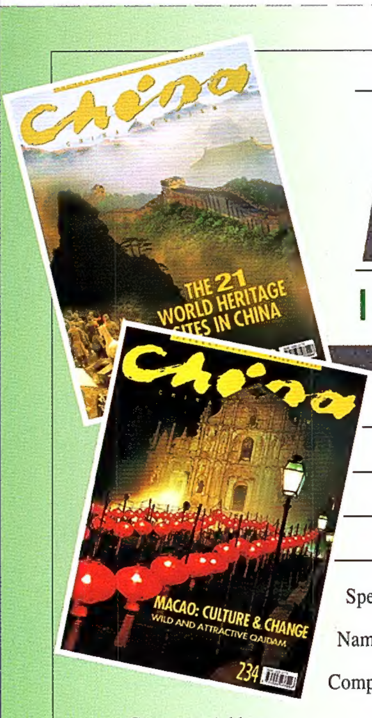
Please return your completed form either by fax to (852) 2561-8196 or mail to Subscription Department, 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong.
For more information, please call us on tel. # (852) 2561-8001, Subscription Department.

HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM LTD.

TOP SERVICE
TO BUSINESS TRAVELLERS
AND TOURISTS ALIKE

Services include:
- Worldwide hotel reservations
- International flight bookings
- Hotel packages
- Organised tours of China, Asia, the United States, Canada and Europe
- Cruises and holiday packages
- Car rental service
- Launch rental service
- Eurail pass
- Visa service

Service Hotline: 2516 9228 (Agnes Wat) **Fax: 2563 7994** **E-mail: travel@hkctp.com.hk**


China
THE 21 WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN CHINA
China
MACAO: CULTURE & CHANGE
WILD AND ATTRACTIVE QAIDAM
234

ADVERTISEMENT ENQUIRIES

I am interested in advertising with CHINA TOURISM (Please complete in block letters):

Advertiser's Name	Product(s)	Issue No. / Page No.

Special Requests: ☐ Quotation ☐ Sample ☐ Others (please specify)__________

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms):__________ Position:__________

Company Name:__________

Company Address:__________

____

Major Type of Business (please specify):__________

(tick one): ☐ Import ☐ Export ☐ Wholesale ☐ Retail ☐ Agent ☐ Manufacturing

Signature:__________ Business Tel:__________ Fax:__________

HK CHINA TOURISM PRESS 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong

dec/jan contents

7 From the Editor

8 Update

10 Travel Notes

14 Feature Story

Four-Wheeled Freedom in South China

Photos & Article by Huang Yanhong

Fed up with struggling on to crowded buses and trains? Tired of lugging a heavy backpack through all sorts of weather? Many travellers are opting for the easier life these days by taking a car on holiday.

China
CHINA TOURISM
No. 281 Dec/Jan 2003/2004

42 On the Way

A Journey Through The Time — The Qin-Jin Yellow River Canyon

Photos & Article by Hu Wugong

In Tuoketuo, Inner Mongolia, the Yellow River makes an abrupt turn to the south. After hundreds and thousands of years of scouring, the river has cut a deep canyon in the vast loess plateau, 720 km long.

50 Discoveries

Chinese Medusa — The Long-Horned Miao

Photos & Article by Chan Yat Nin

Who can forget the snake-headed Medusa from the Greek mythology? Her hair of snakes both intrigues and frightens every living thing. Want to meet the Chinese Medusa? They are known as the "Long-Horned Miao".

58 City Snaps

Shichahai — New Beijing in the Heart of the Old City

Photos by Li Youxiang   Article by Zhao Wuwen

Every city projects its own personality. With Beijing, the weight of history accumulated over time has offset the image of the modern city that it has become.

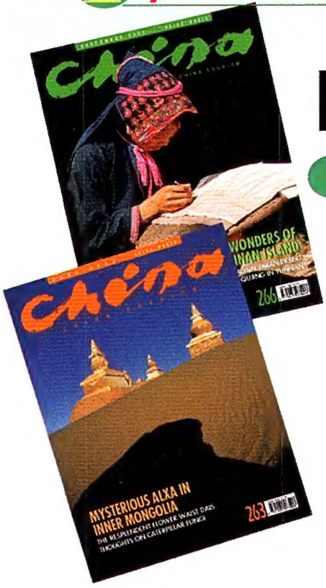
English Edition

China

CHINA TOURISM

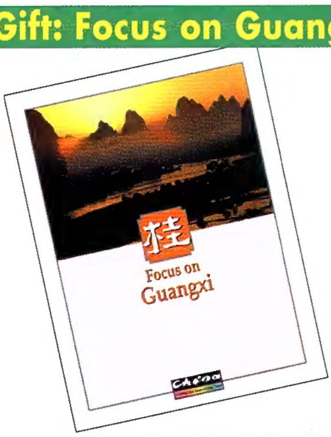
SAVE OFF THE NEWSSTAND PRICE

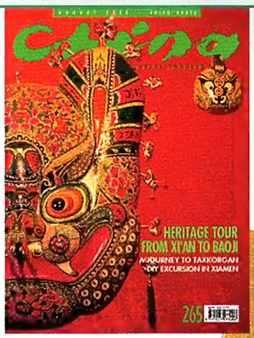
1 year subscription (12 issues)


China
WONDERS OF
266
China
MYSTERIOUS ALXA IN INNER MONGOLIA
263

HK $296

Gift: Focus on Guangxi


桂
Focus on Guangxi


China
HERITAGE TOUR FROM XI'AN TO BAOJI
265

2 years subscription (24 issues)

HK $540

CHINA'S 23 WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Gift: China's 23 World Heritage Sites

Overseas Subscription Rates

Region	Surface Mail		Air Mail	
	1 year	2 years	1 year	2 years
PRC, Macao and Taiwan	HK$451/US$58	HK$850/US$109	HK$690/US$89	HK$1328/US$171
Asian countries (except Japan)	US$69	US$130	US$89	US$171
Japan and non-Asian countries	US$70	US$133	US$102	US$197

☐ Additional charge for Registered Mail HK$156/US$20 per year.

☐ Additional charge for US cheque US $7

I would like to subscribe to CHINA TOURISM starting from ________ /20 ______ for
(Month)

☐ 1year, please send me *Focus on Guangxi*

☐ 2year, please send me *China's 23 World Heritage Sites*

Subscriber's Information

Surname: (Mr/Mrs/Ms) ______________________________ Tel: ______________

Fax/E-mail: ______________________________ Country: ______________

Address: ____

Method of Payment

Total payment: HK$ ____________________ /US$ ____________________

☐ Cheque enclosed made payable to **"HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM PRESS"**

☐ Please debit my credit card ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER ☐ AE

Card no.: ______________________ Expiry date: ______________________

Signature: ____

Please return to : HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM PRESS (Circulation Department), 24/F Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong.
Tel: (852) 2561 8001 Fax: (852) 2561 8196

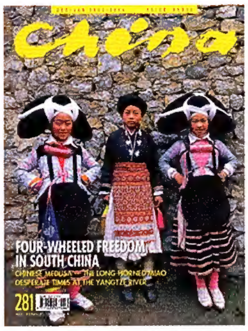
dec/jan contents

62 Nature
Desperate Times at The Headwaters of The Yangtze
Photos & Article by Yang Xin

67 Impression
Toying With Nature's Killers
Article by Tao Ran

68 Profile
Yang Zhiming — A Lifelong "Journey"
Photos & Article by Joseph Ma

71 Travel Gear
Ways to Keep Cash Secure
Photos & Article by Aylin


China
FOUR-WHEELED FREEDOM IN SOUTH CHINA
CHINESE MEDUSA — THE LONG-HORNED MIAO
DESPERATE TIMES AT THE YANGTZE RIVER
281

Long-Horned Miao
(by Chan Yat Nin)

72 Photography
Maximum Shutter Speed — Photographing the Macau Grand Prix
Photos by Ma Zhixin *Article by Lin Jianzhang*

76 Culinary Delights
A Taste of Peasant Life
Photos by Chen Tuanjie *Article by Chen Xu & Shi Baoxiu*

78 Photo Album
Scars of The Past
Photos & Article by Lan Yanze

80 HK Mosaic
Honlloween — Do HK'ers Know How to Haunt?
Photos by Chan Yat Nin *Article by Maggie Lam*
Blame it on Asian's conservative genes; Halloween is only partially in Asian's blood.

84 Feature Destination
86 Calendar
87 Next Issue

China
TOURISM

Consultants *(In alphabetical order)*	T. K. Ann, Ian Fok Chun Wan, Lam Chun, Ma Chi Man, Ma Lin, Wong Tak Hoi, James T. Wu, Howard Young
Director	Tchan Fou-li
Vice Director & Editor-in-Chief	Wang Miao
Deputy General Managers	Kathy Wong, James Jiang, Connie Lee
Executive Editor-in-Chief	Ma Yiu Chun
Deputy Editors-in-Chief	Tu Nai Hsien, Chan Yat Nin
Director of Editorial Department	Dianna Lau
Deputy Directors of Editorial Department	Xie Guanghui, Huang Yanhong
English Editors	Zuo Jun, Maggie Lam
Director of Art Department	Norris Tong
Designers	Y. Y. Lau, W. Y. Yuen, M. Y. Li, S. Y. Leung
Assistant Designer	Lily Lam
Advertising Manager	Kent Lai
China Account Managers	Yu Xifan, Tung Wai Ning, Shi Tiantong
Manager of Sales & Marketing Department	Connie Lee (concurrent)
Business Development Manager	James Jiang (concurrent)
Director of Accounts & Administration Dept.	Kathy Wong (concurrent)

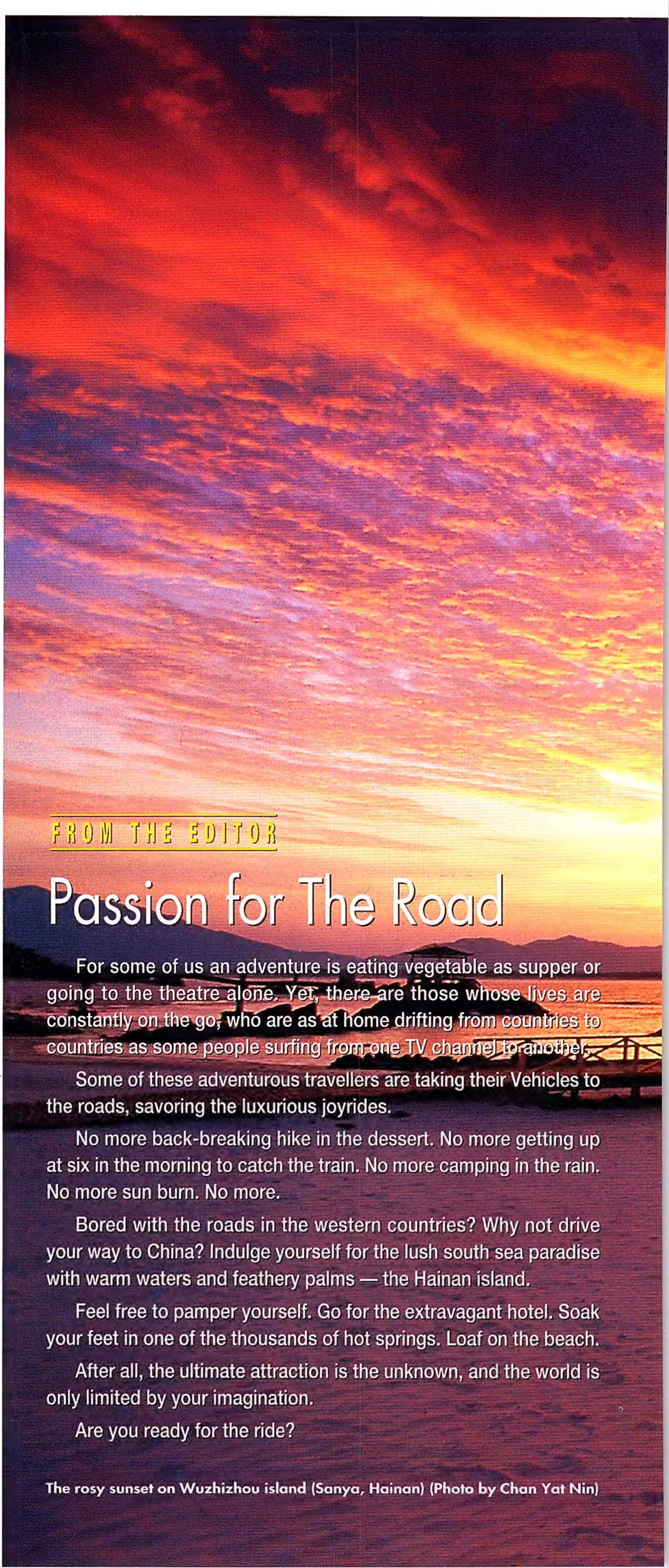
Publisher: HK CHINA TOURISM PRESS
24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2561 8001 Fax: (852) 2561 8057/ 2561 8196
Editorial Dept., Business Dept., Advertising Dept., Sales Dept. Tel: (852) 2561 8001
China Tourism Photo Library Tel: (852) 2561 8001
E-mail: English Editorial Dept: edit-e@hkctp.com.hk
Advertising Dept: ad@hkctp.com.hk
Sales & Marketing Dept: mktg@hkctp.com.hk
Photo Library: plib@hkctp.com.hk
Hong Kong China Tourism Ltd. (Licence No. 351850) Tel: (852) 2516 9228
Printer: C & C Offset Printing Co. Ltd.
C & C Building, 36 Ting Lai Road, Tai Po, N.T. Tel: (852) 2666 4988

Agencies: **Australia** Gordon and Gotch Ltd., • **Belgium** Sun Wah Supermarket • **Brazil** Comercio Impotdora Konmin Ltd. • **Canada and US** Supreme Books Company (852) 2696 3364; LMPI (1) 514-355 5610 • **China** National Publications Import & Export Corp., Beijing • **England** Guanghwa Company Ltd., London • **France** Europasie S.A.R.L., Paris • **Holland** Ming Ya, Amsterdam • **Hong Kong** Foreign Press Distributors Ltd. • **Japan** Koyosha Co. Ltd., Tokyo • **Macau** Starlight Bookstore Ltd.; The World Book Company; Plaza Cultural Macau Ltd. • **Malaysia** Book & Publications Link Sdn Bhd. (586030K) • **Singapore** Marketasia Distributors (S) Pte. Ltd. (65) 6744 8483 • **Thailand** Chew Hong Service Ltd., Bangkok • **The Philippines** Good Quality Merchandising, Manila

China Tourism monthly magazine is available on the scheduled flights, and at VIP lounges, guest rooms and counters of the following organisations:

CATHAY PACIFIC
AIR MACAU 澳門航空
中華航空 CHINA AIRLINES
EVA AIR 長榮航空
復興航空 TransAsia Airways
UNITED AIRLINES
中國國際航空公司 AIR CHINA

China Advertising License: ICAD006
News-stand price: HK$38/ S$8.35/ US$6.95/ CAN$8.95
Printed in Hong Kong
Copyright reserved



FROM THE EDITOR

Passion for The Road

For some of us an adventure is eating vegetable as supper or going to the theatre alone. Yet, there are those whose lives are constantly on the go, who are as at home drifting from countries to countries as some people surfing from one TV channel to another.

Some of these adventurous travellers are taking their Vehicles to the roads, savoring the luxurious joyrides.

No more back-breaking hike in the dessert. No more getting up at six in the morning to catch the train. No more camping in the rain. No more sun burn. No more.

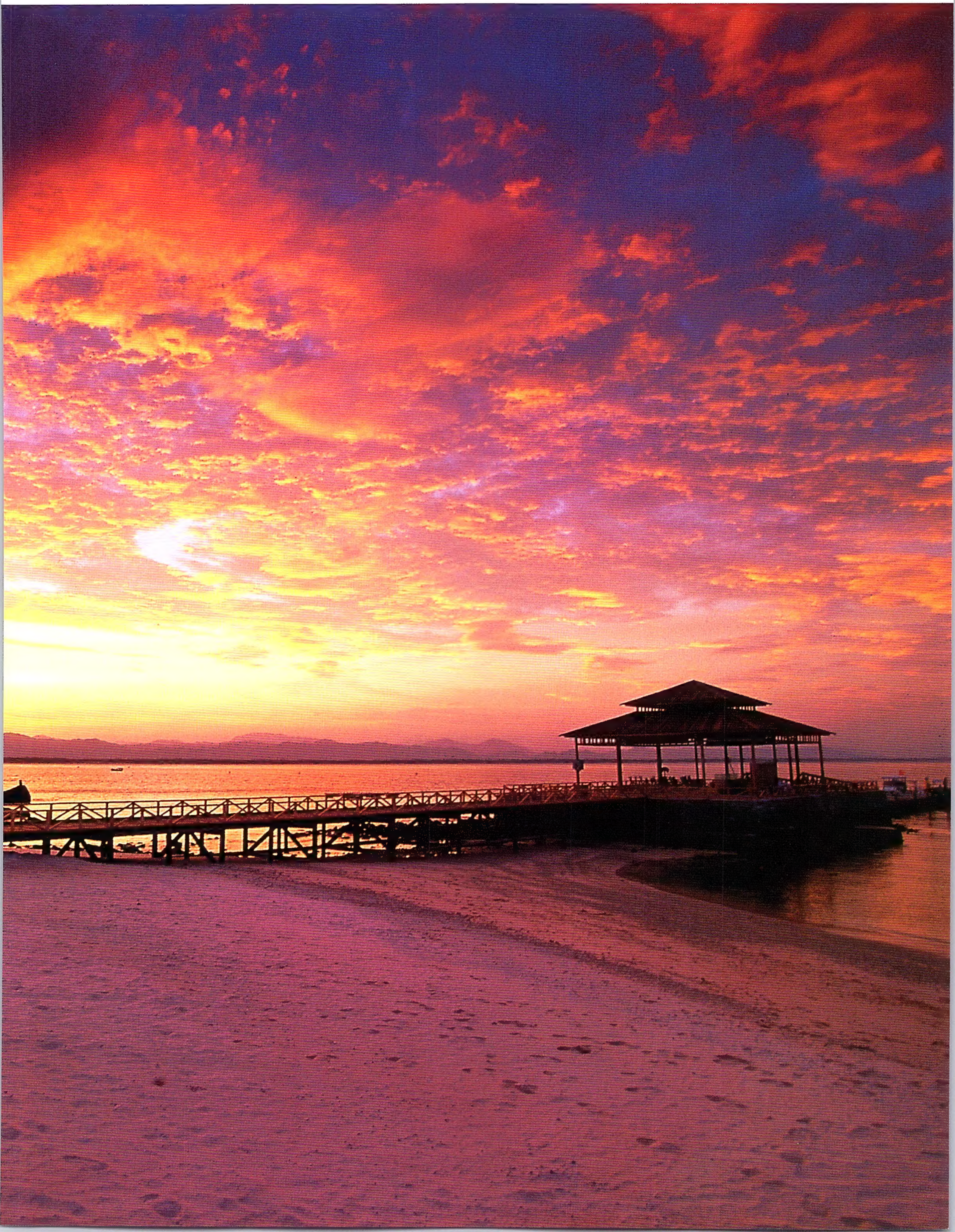
Bored with the roads in the western countries? Why not drive your way to China? Indulge yourself for the lush south sea paradise with warm waters and feathery palms — the Hainan island.

Feel free to pamper yourself. Go for the extravagant hotel. Soak your feet in one of the thousands of hot springs. Loaf on the beach.

After all, the ultimate attraction is the unknown, and the world is only limited by your imagination.

Are you ready for the ride?

The rosy sunset on Wuzhizhou island (Sanya, Hainan) (Photo by Chan Yat Nin)



Beijing Hotels to Be Upgraded for Olympics

A total of 800 hotels in the Chinese capital are to be upgraded to meet environmental standards for the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic Games, hopefully generating 10 billion yuan (US$1.2 billion) in market demand for energy-saving products.

Failure to comply with the requirements means that the 573 star-graded and 227 ungraded hotels will be denied contracts to provide services for delegations representing the International Olympic Committee.

About 80 percent of the star-graded hotels are just a decade old, requiring upgrading in one or two years, and 110 have plans to be upgraded in the next two years.

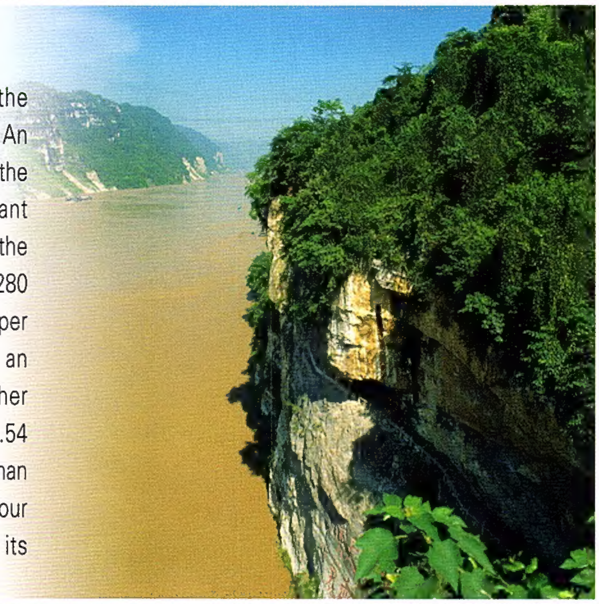
Ninety-one percent of the hotels are to purchase energy-saving products in their upgrading plans, which means market demand would exceed 10 billion yuan.

Shangri-La to Expand

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, Asia's largest luxury hotel operator, said yesterday it will open 11 hotels in China before 2006. Next January, Shangri-La will open a new hotel in Zhongshan, the first five-star hotel in that Guangdong Province city. In Shanghai, the second-phase of the Shangri-La Pudong will start operations in 2005, while Shangri-La West in Jing'an District is expected to open in 2006. Another five-star hotel will be opened in Fuzhou, Fujian Province, by 2006. The company expects the four hotels to cost a combined US$330 million. Sunny Paw, vice president of sales and marketing (China), said the company's Chinese expansion plans will also include Beijing, Xi'an, Shenzhen, Zhengzhou, Sanya, Changzhou, and Chengdu. Currently, 16 of Shangri-La's 40 Asian hotels are on the Chinese mainland, where the company won six management contracts last year. With the robust economic growth, the Chinese market has proved attractive for foreign hotel managers. Marriott International Inc said earlier it would open three new hotels next year."The Chinese market is lucrative, as an increasing number of exhibitions and meetings are held here," said Haitong Securities analyst Zhang Luan. "That will benefit business hotels like the Shangri-La and Marriott in particular." Elsewhere in Asia, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts signed a management agreement with Hotel Excelsior Private Limited last month to manage a hotel in New Delhi. This hotel will open in December 2004. The company's second property in Thailand, the Shangri-La Hotel Chiang Mai, which has 250 guest rooms, will also be put into operation in mid 2006.

More Bridges to Be Built on Yangtze River

Wuhan, the most important industrial city on the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, has started construction of a suspension bridge on the river. An official with the headquarters for ring road construction of Wuhan City said that the bridge would be 30 kilometers downstream from Wuhan Pass, an important hydrological monitoring station in Wuhan City proper. The suspension bridge, the first of the kind in Wuhan City, will be 10 kilometers long with a main span of 1,280 meters, and will have six lanes, with a designed maximum speed of 120 km per hour. It will cost 2 billion yuan (about US$241 million). The bridge will be an important part of the city's 128-km outer ring road, said the official. Another highway-railway bridge, with an investment of 12.8 billion yuan (about US$1.54 billion), will also start construction at Tianxingzhou of Yangluo to the east of Wuhan late this month, according Li Xiansheng, mayor of Wuhan. There are already four bridges across the Yangtze in Wuhan Citywhich is divided by the river and its tributary Hanshui into three parts — Wuchang, Hankou and Hanyang.



New Road Cuts Travel Time

A new road will shorten the travel time between Guangzhou and Dongguan to 45 minutes by the end of this year. The road, extending from Xintang Township in Zengcheng to Zhongtang Township in Dongguan, is an extension of the 47 km Guangyuan Road. It will then become the third major road linking Guangzhou and Dongguan after National Way 107 and Guangzhou-Shenzhen Expressway. The new extension is 14 km long with a designed speed of 80 km per hour. Tollgates will be installed but the fee has not yet been decided. The previous 33 km Guangyuan Road, which opened in September 2001, runs from Guangzhou's Tianhe District to Xintang Township in Zengcheng. The extension road will take 17 months and cost 1.5 billion yuan (US$182 million).

China May Buy 30 Boeing Jets

China is poised to buy as many as 30 planes worth about US$2 billion from Boeing Co, the world's largest aircraft maker, allowing the country to narrow its trade gap with the United States.

Carriers including Shandong Airlines Co and Xiamen Airlines Co will buy Boeing 737 aircraft from the Chicago-based company, an official at China's State Development Planning Commission said. The commission approves purchases of planes for Chinese airlines, all of which are state controlled.

The purchases are a part of China's efforts to ease US concern about its US$130 billion trade gap with Asia's second-largest economy.

Chinese airlines will buy 2,400 new aircraft worth US$197 billion in the next two decades, according to Boeing, as they expand their fleets to meet demand in one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

The Chinese economy, the world's sixth-largest, is expanding at an estimated 8 percent annual rate, three times as fast as the Group of Seven industrialized economies.

Buddha Damaged in Earthquake

The country's largest indoor sleeping Buddha statue was damaged in the latest earthquake in the city of Zhangye in Gansu Province. The statue is about 35 m long and 7.5 m broad at the shoulders. The base of the statue has sunk, and the stomach has a crack 9 m long and 1 cm wide. The temple housing the statue has also been damaged with cracks in walls, said Deng Kun, curator of Zhangye Municipal Museum. Two earthquakes measuring 6.1 and 5.8 on the Richter scale hit areas between Minle County and Shandan County in Zhangye on October 25.

Executive Salon
行政沙龙

The 18th to 22nd floors are executive floors. An executive salon can be found at the 18th floor. As an "imbedded restaurant", the salon claims reception room, dining hall and small business center to provide the following services:

*Convenient check in and check out at the executive salon.
*Free buffet breakfast.
* "Happy Hour", 50 percent discount for all drinks.
*Free cafe, tea and soft drink.
*Free copy within 30 pieces of paper.
*Free use of notebook computer and printer for one hour at the executive salon.
*Free fax receiving.
*Latest magazines, newspapers and leisure books.
*Get-together, friend-meeting and little rest at the executive salon.
*English or Chinese newspapers for each room.
*Fresh flowers in bath room.
*Mileage plus premier
*Twice room cleanings for each day

For more information
please dial 6512 5555 -- 87

🟥 Worldwide Reservations
USA & CANADA (800)421-8795
TOLL FREE (800)273-2294 (CA ONLY)
LOS ANGELES (213)629-1114
LONDON (020)7584-6666
HONG KONG (852)2529-2713
TOKYO (03)3262-7021

長 富 宮 飯 店
HOTEL NEW OTANI CHANG FU GONG

🟥 26, Jianguomenwai Avenue, Beijing 100022, China.
Tel: (86-10)6512-5555
Fax: (86-10)6513-9810
Web-site: www.cfgbj.com
E-mail: cfg@cfgbj.com

Master Zhuge's Eight Trigrams Village

Lanxi Located to the south in Zhejiang Province, Master Zhuge's Eight Trigrams Village in Lanxi City is the largest inhabited area of Master Zhuge Liang's descendents, with a population of 4,000 at present. Zhuge Liang was an excellent politician, thinker and strategist in the period of the Three Kingdoms (220-280 A.D.) in China's history. He was renowned as a legendary figure in one of China's foremost popular ancient novels, the Romance of the Three Kingdoms. His story and deeds are well known by all the Chinese people and his wisdom respected for over one thousand years. There are more than 200 architectural sites from the Ming and Qing Dynasty in the village, and although they have survived over 700 years, the village structure remains almost unchanged. Walls are decorated with wide roof beams and thick columns are the typical architectural style of the Master Zhuge's village. It has been an architectural paragon of the ancient Chinese village style. Moreover, the village has been one of three symbols standing for ancient culture in Zhejiang Province and has been steadily approved by the State Council as a major historical and cultural site under state protection since 1996. At present, with an original mystical culture and historical heritage, Master Zhuge's village appeals strongly to tourists at both home and abroad.

Hot Spring for Lamas

Woka Woka hot spring, used to be reserved for lamas only, has now been opened to public since the end of October. Located at the Sangri County Woka Township, Woka hot spring maintains the perfect temperature (between 30 to 65 °C). One of the seven points of the hot spring, Jueqiongbangka, was used to be the favorite spot of the founder of Tibet Buddhism (Zongkaba).

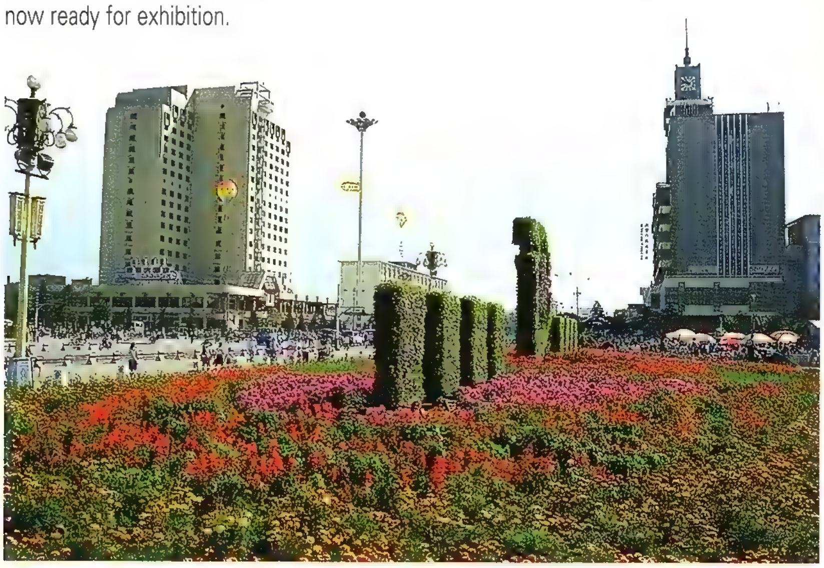
Although hot spring contains numerous minerals and nutrients, the villagers are afraid to soak in the spring for fear of blasphemy. Only later did such concept changed, for the people are now comfortable to use the hot spring for therapeutic usage.

The Sangri County and Woka prairie belong to the natural reserve area of Tibet, and the area is now the home of many endangered species.

Completed Restoration Project of Kalaqin Prince Mansion

Mongolia Known as the largest museum of Inner Mongolia, the Kalaqin Prince Mansion from Qing Dynasty (1644-1911 A.D.) has just completed its restoration. Encompassed an area of about ten hectares, the mansion has 490 rooms, and it incorporates architectures from the Mongolia region and Tibet Buddhism.

The mansion and its 1400 antique items, such as imperial garments and ornaments of past Mongolian kings and their relatives, variety of folk artifacts and relics, hunting and sports implements, model yurt (Mongolian tent), costumes, and cooking implements, are now ready for exhibition.



Shanghai Special Tour

Shanghai Travel to western Zhejiang at a discount!

Before the end of this year, Shanghai Special Tourist Line is offering many travel package to tourists: Rafting at Shuangxi $100 RMB (original price $150 RMB); day trip to Tiantan $130 RMB (original price $170 RMB); day trip to Liuxi River $110 RMB (original price $150 RMB); 2-day trip to western Zhejiang canyon and Liuxi River $180 RMB (original price $250 RMB); 2-day trip to Liuxi River and Mt. Daming $250 RMB (original price $180 RMB); 2-day trip to Mt. Daming $180 RMB (original price $250 RMB); 2-day trip to Qingshan Lake, Taihuyuan and Shuangxi $180 RMB (original price $250 RMB); 2-day trip to Qingshan Lake, Shenlongchuan and Shuangxi $180 RMB (original price $250 RMB).

Travel package includes rides, travel insurance and accommodation.

Address of Bus Centre: outside of Gate 12, Lift 5, Shanghai Stadium, 666 Tianhongqiao Road.

Huangshan City's Low Season Promotion

Huangshan Maximize your experience of Huangshan at a minimal cost.

Huangshan city had just set its low season to be the period of mid November to mid March, and most of the tourist site admissions are at a discount of 20%. In addition, hotels are offering special low season rates that are up to 50% less than the regular season.

Another reason to travel in low season, apart from the calm and conviviality of the Huangshan City, are the charms of nature in spring and autumn: the world-famous Huangshan mountain, well-preserved ancient villages, crystal Lake Taiping, old residences, archways, clan temples, ancient bridges and pagodas...

For a quieter holiday outside the main season, you should take advantage of this period when the crowds are low and so are the prices!

Exploring An Enchanting Land

Yellow River The Yellow River Delta, where the Yellow River joins the Bohai Sea, is a vast mysterious land. The 8,000 km^2 delta has the youngest lands of China's eastern coastal areas, and it offers a splendid spectacle: the grand river estuary into the sea, a vast expanse of wetlands, grasslands, flocks of birds, sheep, horses and cattle and the beautiful coastline. The Yellow River originates from northwestern China's Qinghai — Tibet Plateau, crossing nine provinces in more than 5,500 km, and flows into the Bohai Sea in Dongying, a city in East China's Shandong Province. Since the river is the sandiest one in the world, every year it brings more than 900 million tons of sand that forms an alluvial plain before joining the sea, creating more than 3,667 ha of new land each year. New wetlands in the past 100 years total 2,000 km^2, shaping a unique wetland landscape. The rare natural willow forest, 8,000 ha of artificial acacia forest, thousands of hectares of reeds and 20,000 ha of natural pasture land, the Yellow River Delta is also home to more than 10 million birds. The confirmed bird species here have reached 265, more than one-fifth of the country's total, including 41 kinds under State-level protection. The sound ecological system and rich food chain have provided an ideal habitat for birds.Covering an area of 153,000 ha, the Yellow River Delta Protective Zone is the most unexpected wonderland.

Changchun Jingyue Pool Ice and Snow Tourism Festival

Changchun This 88-days festival at Jingyue Pool of Changchun City (Jilin Province) starts from Dec 1, 03 to Feb 26, 04. There will be a grand opening ceremony, ice sculptures along the street, folk performances of the northeastern China, fireworks evening party, overseas Chinese ski race, driving performance on ice, horserace on snow, dog-sleigh race, folk costume shows etc.

Long-lost Melodies at Henan Museum

Henan Dressed in robes supposedly dating back 2,000 years, 18 people appeared on a stage set in the lobby of the Henan Museum. Some held guqin (seven-stringed ancient Chinese musical instruments), some held erhu, pipa, bamboo flutes and xiao — an ancient type of flute. All were as part of a traditional Chinese music concert.

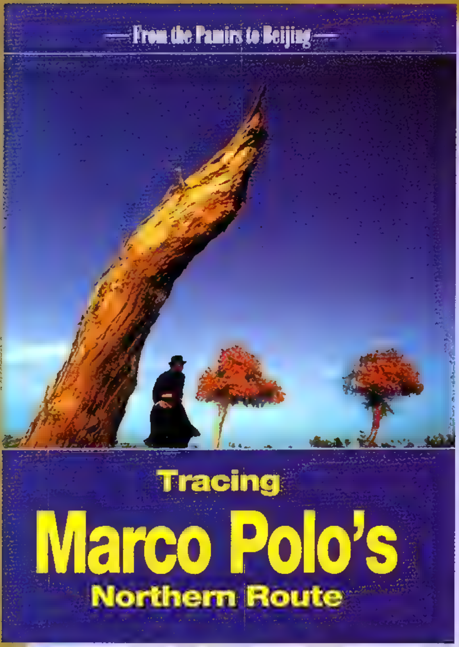
The concert was presented by the Huaxia Ancient Music Ensemble twice a day at the museum in Zhengzhou, capital of Henan Province. Some 9,000 years ago, people living in the vast plains of Central China's Henan Province were believed to have known how to play music. According to historical records, the music of the Getian tribe had been spread among the primitive tribes in the Yellow River valley.

To revive such rich musical relics and build up a brand-new image, the provincial museum invested 300,000 yuan (US$36,200) into duplicating 20-odd ancient musical instruments, which were the most representative of the central plains culture over thousands of years.

The museum has also invited renowned domestic archaeologists, musical archaeological professors and musicians to give them training seminars as well as lectures on archaeology.

Photographic & Practical Guides for Your China Tours

Before you set off for your perfect journey, you may have to prepare your itinerary carefully. Each of the following recommended readings offers different types of information which cater to our readers' various interests: exploring, photography, or tourist information. They will be great guides to your China tours.



Tracing Marco Polo's Northern Route

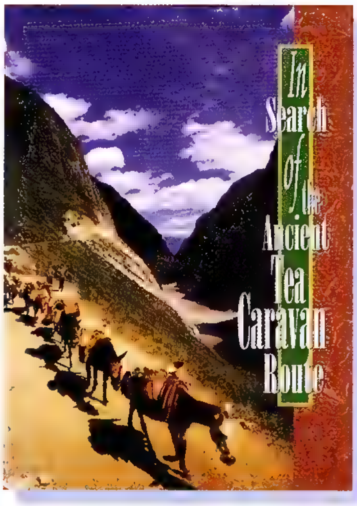
A record of an 80-day journey in which our authors drive their jeep 12,000 km long through the northern regions of China following in the footsteps of Macro Polo's historic journey from the Pamir Highland to Beijing. In a medley of images and words, we present you with the fascinating scenery and various ways of life in Xinjiang, Qinghai, Gansu, Ningxia, Inner Mongolia, and Tibet.

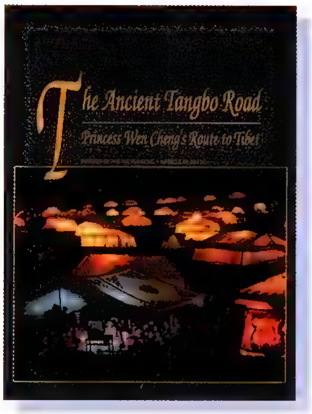
HK$156

In Search of the Ancient Tea Caravan Route

The ancient Tea Caravan Route can be traced back to 2,000 years ago, starting from Xishuangbanna at China's southwestern end, passing through boundless forests and valleys to the Sino-Indian, Nepalese and Sikkimese borders on Tibet, the "Roof of the World". This book is not-to-be-missed by every daring adventurer.

HK$192





The Ancient Tangbo Road

Covering four provinces including Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, and the Tibet Autonomous Region, the ancient Tangbo Road was created on the map when Princess Wen Cheng was sent as a bride to Luoxie (present-day Lhasa) during the Tang Dynasty. Our photographers and writers, who have followed this arduous route, present you the graceful sights and unique ethnic customs on the way.

HK$192

Guide to Xinjiang

This book is especially designated for DIY travellers who desire to explore the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. There are detailed introduction to scenic spots in five main areas in Xinjiang including Urümqi, Turpan, Southern and Northern Xinjiang, and Central Tianshan. Practical tourist information on accommodation, ticketing, shopping, local specialty, as well as travel tips are covered.

HK$96

SACRED BUDDHIST LANDS

Sacred Buddhist Lands

Buddhism in China is inevitably linked with some of the country's best known mountains. And going deep in the mountains and far away from civilization is an ideal place for retreat. Belonging to the four Bodhisattvas respectively, the four most famous Buddhist mountains — Wutai, Jiuhua, Putuo and Emei — are nestled with numerous monasteries and nunneries which have been worshipped by pilgrims for thousands of years. Tourists to these places will totally be soaked in "Kingdoms of Buddhism".

HK$156

FAMOUS CHINESE MOUNTAINS
THE FIVE SACRED MOUNTAINS
THE YELLOW MOUNTAIN

The Five Sacred Mountains
The Yellow Mountain

Located in five provinces in China, every of the Five Sacred Mountains — Taishan, Hengshan, Songshan, Hengshan and Huashan — has its magnificent natural and cultural landscapes. Besides, Huangshan (Yellow Mountain), is also famous for its spectacular rocks, pine trees, and sea of clouds. It will be a great enjoyment in reading both the detailed text and remarkable images by our experienced photographers as recorded in this book.

HK$156

Subscriber's information

Name: (Mr./Ms./Mrs.) ____________________ Daytime contact no.: ____________________

Address: ____

Fax/E-mail: ____________________

Order information

Title	Price	Postage	Qty
The Five Sacred Mountains /The Yellow Mountain	HK $156/US $20	Local HK $10/US $1 per copy Overseas surface mail HK $38/ US $5 per copy	
Sacred Buddhist Lands	HK $156/US $20		
The Ancient Tangbo Road	HK $192/US $25		
In Search of the Ancient Tea Caravan Route	HK $192/US $25		
Guide to Xinjiang	HK $96/US $12		
Tracing Marco Polo's Northern Route	HK $156/US $20		

Payment Methods

☐ Check that payable to HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM PRESS or;
(additional US $7 will be levied for US check or bank draft)

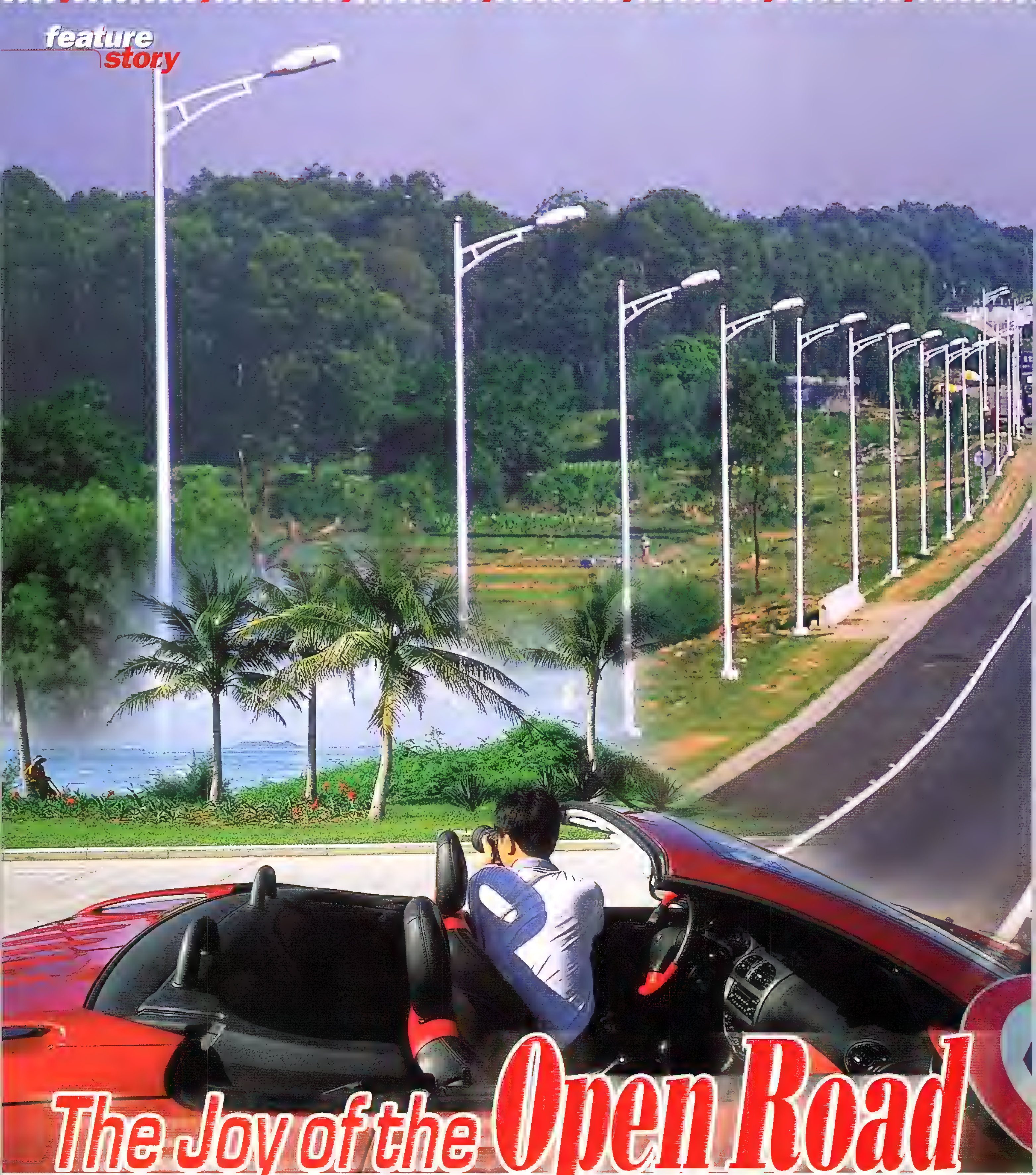
☐ Credit card ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER ☐ AE

Card number: ____________________ Expiry date: ____________

Name of cardholder: ________________________________

Signature: ____________________ Total amount: ____________

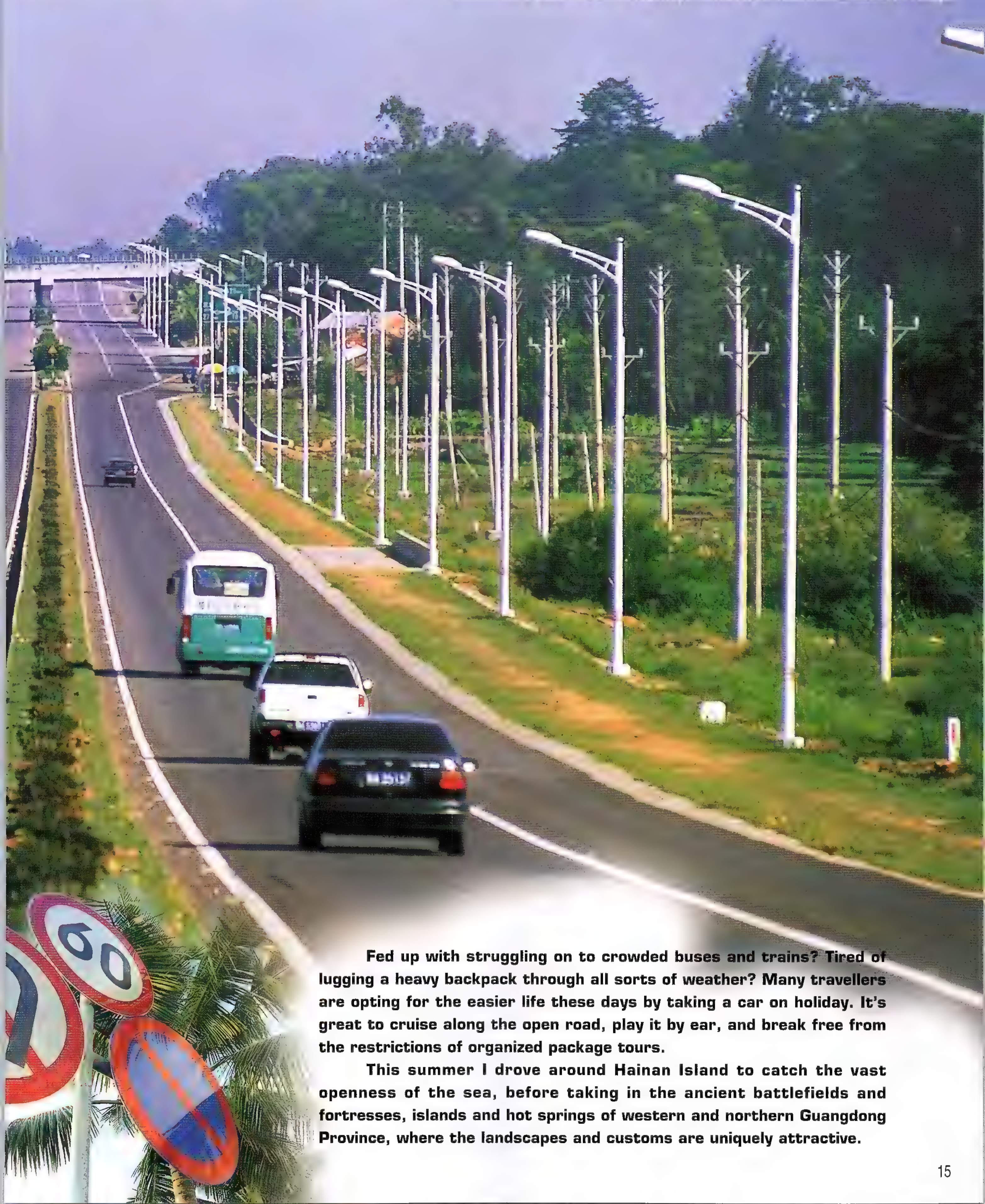
Return to:
Subscription Department, 24/F Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong. Or fax to (852) 2561-8196.



The Joy of the Open Road

Four-Wheeled Freedom in South China

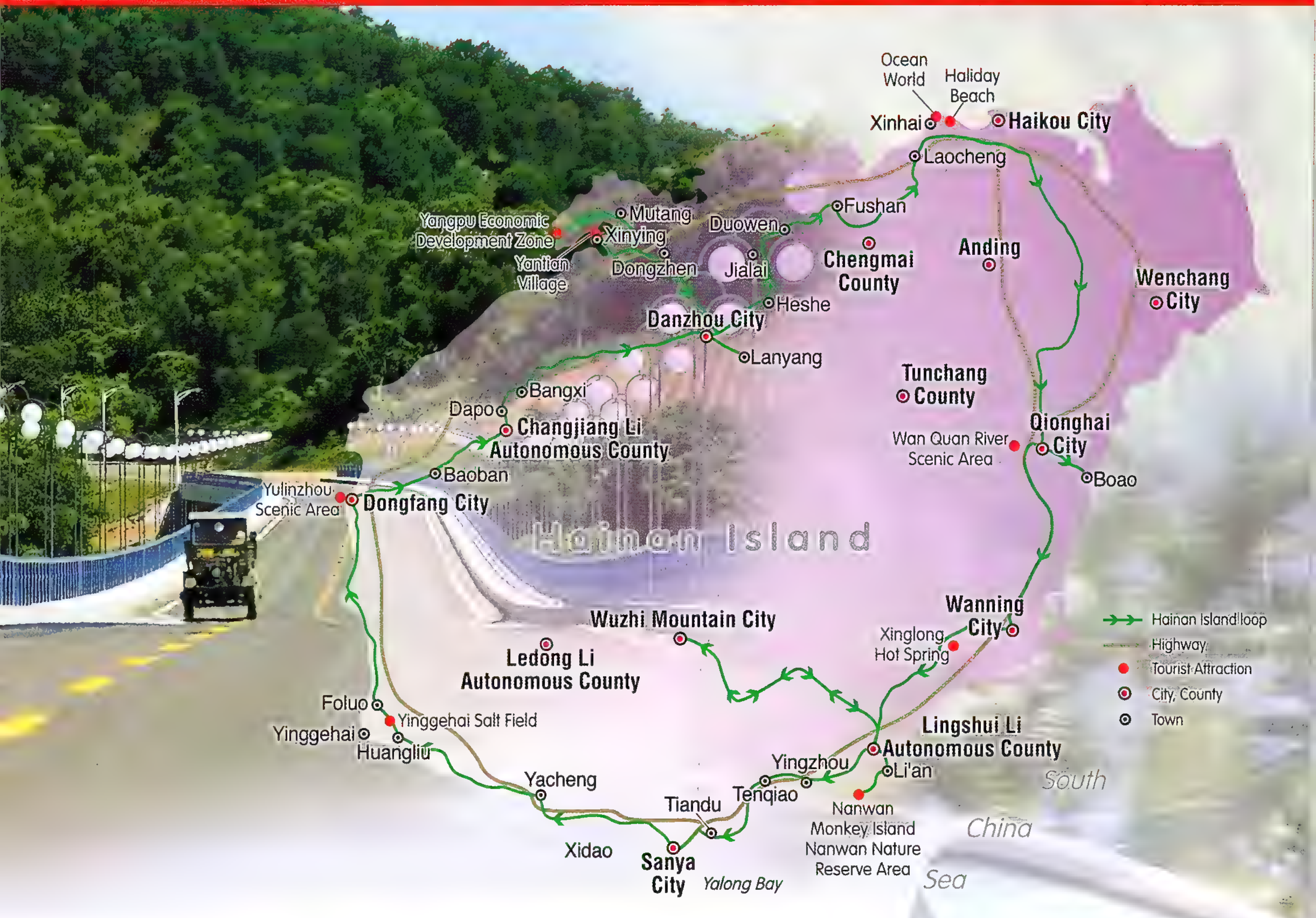
Photos and Article by Huang Yanhong



Fed up with struggling on to crowded buses and trains? Tired of lugging a heavy backpack through all sorts of weather? Many travellers are opting for the easier life these days by taking a car on holiday. It's great to cruise along the open road, play it by ear, and break free from the restrictions of organized package tours.

This summer I drove around Hainan Island to catch the vast openness of the sea, before taking in the ancient battlefields and fortresses, islands and hot springs of western and northern Guangdong Province, where the landscapes and customs are uniquely attractive.

TIPS for the Travellers


Ocean World
Haliday Beach
Xinhai
Haikou City
Laocheng
Fushan
Yangpu Economic Development Zone
Mutang
Xinying
Duowen
Yantian Village
Dongzhen
Jialai
Chengmai County
Anding
Wenchang City
Heshe
Danzhou City
Lanyang
Tunchang County
Bangxi
Dapo
Changjiang Li Autonomous County
Qionghai City
Wan Quan River Scenic Area
Boao
Baoban
Yulinzhou Scenic Area
Dongfang City
Hainan Island
Wanning City
Wuzhi Mountain City
Xinglong Hot Spring
Ledong Li Autonomous County
Foluo
Yinggehai Salt Field
Yinggehai
Huangliu
Lingshui Li Autonomous County
Yingzhou
Li'an
Yacheng
Tiandu
Tenqiao
Nanwan Monkey Island Nanwan Nature Reserve Area
Xidao
Sanya City
Yalong Bay
South China Sea
Hainan Island loop
Highway
Tourist Attraction
City, County
Town

Don't forget to fill up!

Getting a driver's license:

You may get a driver's license of the mainland China after passing its written and driving tests. The following companies in HK offer services such as exams booking, driving lessons and rides to the China's transportation offices (either in Guangzhou or Jiangmen):

1) Lee Kin Driving School
Address: 10th floor, 582 Nathan Road, Sino Centre, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2390-2666

Procedure:

If you have a legitimate driving license (most countries are acceptable) that is less than 3 years old, you must take both the written and driving tests. You may obtain your Chinese driver license in two weeks once you pass the exams. Registration fee: $1,800 HKD (~US $230).

If your driving license is more than 3 years old, you still need to take the written test. It will take five days to process your license, and the cost is $1,800 HKD (~US $230).

If you don't have a driving license, then you may consider taking driving lessons in China, and the cost is about $6,250 HKD (~US $800).

License renewal: Your Chinese license needs to be renewed annually, and the renewal fee is $280 HKD (~US $40).

Registration: You need your passport, original driver license (if you have one).

2) Guangdong-HK's Drivers Training Centre:
Address: Room 753, Star House, 3 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2302-4242

Procedure:

If you have a legitimate driving license (most countries are acceptable), you only need to take the written test. Registration and the first two years of license fee: $1,800 HKD (~US $230).

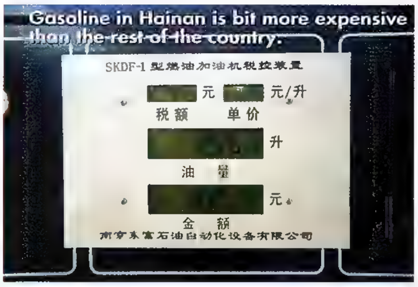
If you don't have a driving license, then you may consider taking driving lessons in Shenzhen, and the cost (the first two years of license fee included) is about $4,200 HKD (~US $540).

Registration: You need your passport, original driver license (if you have one).

3) Zongan Driving School:
Address: 1st floor Tianxin Builing, Lianhua Bei, Dongguoling Shenzhen, China
Tel: (86) 755-8306 8265

Procedure:

If you have a legitimate driving license (most countries are acceptable), you need to take the written test. Registration fee: $1,900 HKD (~US $240) if your license is less than 3 years old, $1,700 HKD (~US $220) if your license is older.


Gasoline in Hainan is bit more expensive than the rest of the country.
SKDF-1 型燃油加油机税控装置
元
元/升
税额
单价
升
油量
元
金额
南京东富石油自动化设备有限公司

If you don't have a driving license and consider taking driving lessons, you may need to set aside one and a half month to complete all the driving courses.

Rental car Insurance:

Your premium must include both driver and passengers, and have third party liability coverage.

Deposits:

Depending on the type of vehicles and the rental companies, deposits can range from 5,000 up to 40,000 yuan.

Accidents:

In case of an accident, you should stay calm and call the police (122) or the emergency center (120) immediately. Signal transmission for mobile phone is good on most highways, and phone booths are placed at frequent intervals on the roads. As a last resort, you can also ask passing motorists for help.

If the accident involves a third party (passengers or pedestrians), you should ensure they get to the nearest hospital and call the police as soon as possible. The driver should pay for the medical fee upfront regardless who is at fault (though the regulation has not yet been listed as a law). Medical expenses will be shared fairly according to each party's responsibility; however, some pedestrians may not be able to afford the expenses. Therefore, it is essential to have a comprehensive insurance coverage before you travel.

Car Rental Companies

Shenzhen:

Shenzhen Zhongqi Car Rental Co. Ltd.
Add: 2/F South Chunxun Building, Bao'an Road North;
Tel: (755) 8241 5787;
Car type: from Harley to Audi A6;
Rent: 180-2,000 yuan/day.

Shenzhen Shun'an Car Rental Co. Ltd.
Add: 5-305 Kefa Road, Science and Technology Garden, Nanshan District;
Tel: (755) 2650 5159;
Car type: from Lingyang to Mercedes-Benz;
Rent: 350-2,500 yuan/day.

Guangzhou:

Guangzhou Huangpu Car Rental Service Co. Ltd.
Add: 67 Fengle Road, Huangpu;
Tel: (20) 8238 5120;
Car type: Peugeot, Honda Accord;
Rent: 320-650 yuan/day.

Hainan Island:

Hainan Drive & Travel Co. Ltd.
Haikou Add: Haihang Hotel, Meilan Airport, Haikou.
Tel: (898) 6572 3808;

Sanya Add: Yangguang Yayuan, Donghe Road West; Sanya;
Tel: (898) 8866 6239;
Car type: various sedans, sports cars and sports utility vechicle
Rent: 300-900 yuan/day.

Car Rental Procedures:

1. Present your ID, driver's licence, return air tickets and credit card.
2. Fill in the car rental form.
3. Sign the contract; pay the deposit and full rent in cash.
4. Exam the car together with a company representative and fill in the check report.
5. With a valid credit card, you can enjoy 10 percent off the rent and need to pay only half the deposit.
6. You may also rent your car through your hotels (in Sanya or Haikou) at no extra service charge.
7. If you rent the car from either Sanya or Haikou, you may return the car to other regions of china with no additional charge.

Another Option:

If you don't want to drive yourself, you can hire a driver:

1. You will not be required to pay a deposit and sign a car rental contract.
2. The rental company will assign a driver, who will work eight hours a day for 100 yuan, or 200 yuan (on public holidays), and 20 yuan for each additional hour. The customer pays the driver directly and also pays for his or her accommodation expenses.
3. The customer is responsible for the fuel.
4. The rental time is counted in days (24 hours), and when the excess time is four hours or longer, it will be counted as a day.
5. The daily mileage is limited to 300 km, and you'll be charged one yuan/km for additional mileage. If you rent a car for three days or longer, there will be no daily mileage limit.

Getting to Hainan

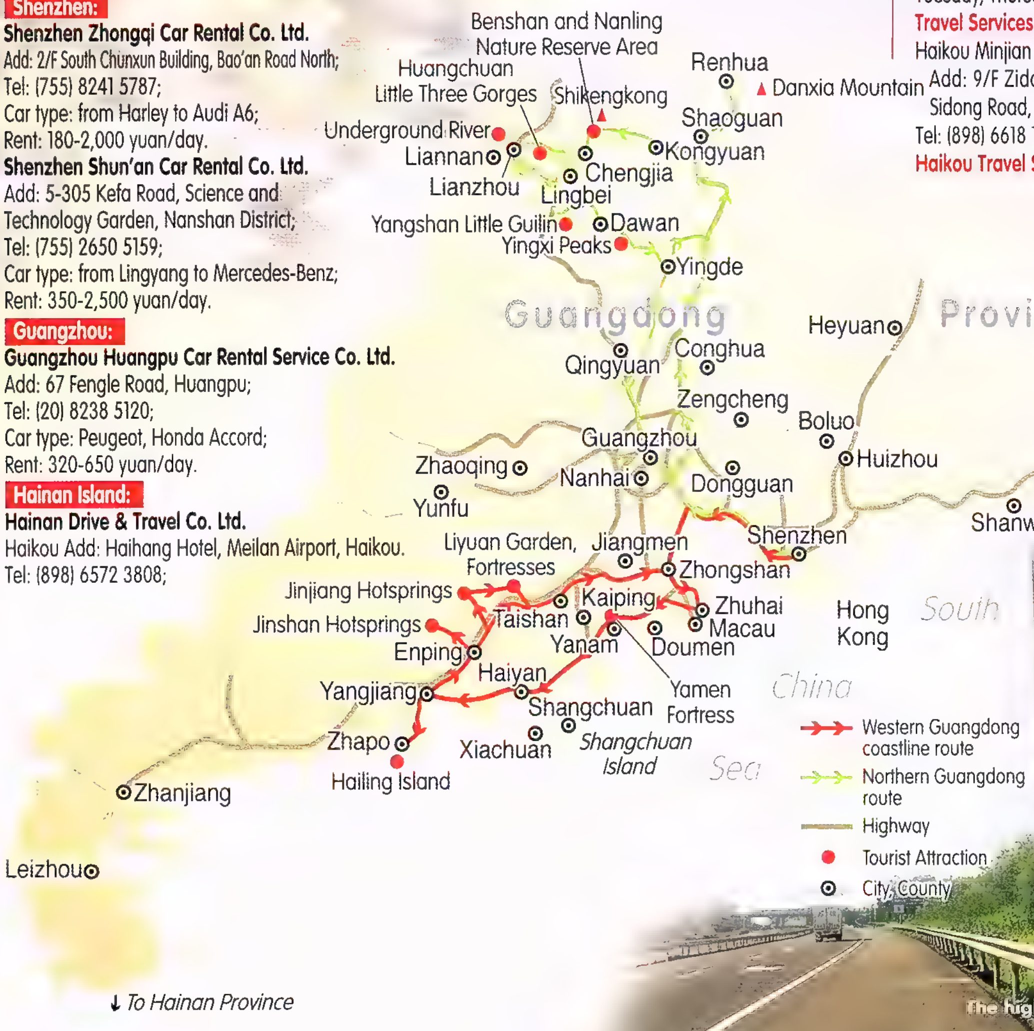
Air: There are several flights from Shenzhen to Haikou every day, with fares ranging from 250 yuan to 500 yuan. There is also a daily flight from Hong Kong to Haikou.

Sea: You can take a car ferry from Shenzhen to Hainan. Fares: 218 yuan/person; car of six seats or smaller: 605 yuan/car. The ferry sets off at 17:00 every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. To ship your car, you need to arrive before 15:30 to go through the formalities. The ship returns from Haikou every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoon.

Travel Services:

Haikou Minjian Travel Service Co. Ltd.
Add: 9/F Zidong Tower, Huandao Plaza, Haidian Sidong Road, Haikou;
Tel: (898) 6618 1916;

Haikou Travel Service Hot Line: (898) 9695 5988.


Benshan and Nanling Nature Reserve Area
Huangchuan Little Three Gorges
Shikengkong
Renhua
Danxia Mountain
Shaoguan
Underground River
Liannan
Kongyuan
Chengjia
Lianzhou
Lingbei
Yangshan Little Guilin
Dawan
Yingxi Peaks
Yingde
Guangdong Province
Meixian
Heyuan
Jieyang
Shantou
Qingyuan
Conghua
Zengcheng
Boluo
Guangzhou
Huizhou
Zhaoqing
Nanhai
Dongguan
Yunfu
Shanwei
Liyuan Garden, Fortresses
Jiangmen
Shenzhen
Zhongshan
Jinjiang Hotsprings
Kaiping
Zhuhai
Jinshan Hotsprings
Taishan
Macau
Hong Kong
South China Sea
Enping
Yanam
Doumen
Haiyan
Yamen Fortress
Yangjiang
Shangchuan
Shangchuan Island
Zhapo
Xiachuan
Hailing Island
Zhanjiang
Leizhou
↓ To Hainan Province
Western Guangdong coastline route
Northern Guangdong route
Highway
Tourist Attraction
City, County

红色娘子军纪念园
THE RED WOMEN DETACHMENT
500m
万泉河漂流
RIVER-RAFTING
44km
白石岭
BAISHI RIDGE
5km
椰寨农家乐
TRADITIONAL VILLAGES

The highway on the island is broad and modern.

Round-Island Travel in HAINAN

In the green area on Haikou's western coast are the Holiday Beach, Western Coast Park and the new Ocean World.

Don't forget to top up your fuel tank.

Distance: 1,658 km.

Duration: seven days.

Route: Haikou → Boao → Qionghai Wanquan River → Xinglong → Lingshui Nanwan → Wuzhi Mountain → Sanya → Dongfang → Changjiang Bawangling → Yangpu → Haikou

Advantages: It is the most comfortable way to travel in Hainan and enjoy the natural environment. It is suitable for family travel.

Road conditions: Most of the roads are high-grade highways except for the latter section on Wuzhi Mountain and a three-kilometer section on Bawangling.

Car type: Sedan car for five people.

Gas consumption: 125 litres of 90#, totaling about 500 yuan.

Roads lined with coconut trees make it a tropical tour.

Stop 1: Haikou

Round-Island Travel in Hainan

Situated by a tropical sea, Haikou's Seaside Road has been developed into a park along the western coast. On both sides of the road extending more than 10 km are coconut trees. Further to the west is the vast Wanluyuan (Enormous Green Park). Scenic attractions include the Jiari (Holiday) Beach, and the Ocean World theme park, with displays on the mysteries of the sea and colourful marine life.

Travel Notes: As soon as I got off the plane, I was greeted by a representative of the Haiqi Drive & Travel Company. I had a wonderful night at the Taihua Hotel, enjoying a delicious meal and chatting with friends in the swimming pool. Early the next morning, after breakfast, I drove on the road. It was not my first time in Haikou, so on hearing about the newly built Ocean World, I hurried to see it. The road was broad and the traffic was easy. The coconut trees lining the road were retreating backward and everything looked lush and green. Soon, through the trees, I saw the sparkling blue sea. The scenery was so attractive that I missed Ocean World and had to make a U turn to look for it again. The maritime park was very eye-catching; especially the 131-m-high tower built in the shape of fish in the centre. Built in the 1990s, it cost an estimated 50 million yuan.

The sea here is unusual. Beneath the waves lie 100,000 m^2 of reefs made of volcanic lapillus, which have become the home of many varieties of fish. Angling contests are often held here and the record is 22 fish, each weighing about a kilogram, caught in half an hour.

The park is equipped with many facilities, including a Shell Museum, featuring more than 2,000 varieties of shells, including some rare ones. One shell is one of only ten of its kind in the world and the museum bought it for 50,000 yuan.

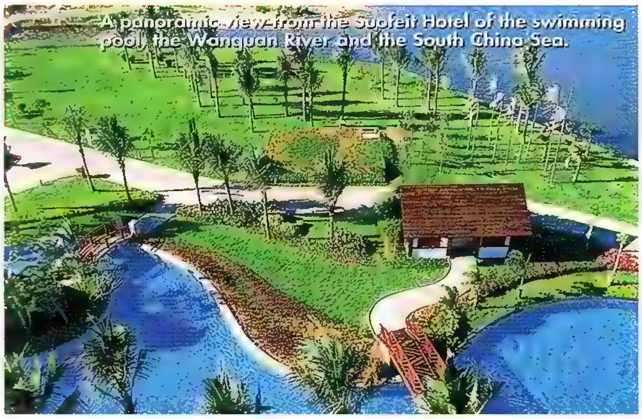
The Dinosaur Museum seemed inconsequential. As no dinosaur fossils have ever been discovered in Hainan, the artificially constructed skeleton had little significance.

Remember to buy a map when you arrive in Haikou, so you don't get lost.

Taihua Hotel (four-star): 300 yuan/room after discount.

Ocean World entry ticket: 50 yuan.

The beautiful scenery makes driving a pleasant experience.


A panoramic view from the Suofeit Hotel of the swimming pool, the Wanquan River and the South China Sea.

Stop 2: Boao

Round-Island Travel in Hainan

The Boao Forum for Asia is a non-governmental, non-profit and regulated international conference organization and the only one of its kind in Asia. Since it was established in February 2001, the forum has served as a venue for high-level dialogue and discussions among political, commercial and academic leaders in Asia.

The Boao Forum was jointly initiated by Fidel V. Ramos, former president of the Philippines, Bob Hawke, former prime minister of Australia and Hosokawa Morihiro, former prime minister of Japan. Boao, though a small town, was chosen as its permanent meeting site.

A seaport, Boao lies at the convergence of three rivers — the Wanquan, the Longgun and the Jiuqu — just before they meet the sea.

Travel Notes: Leaving Haikou, I drove along the east route of Hainan Island, indulging in the privileges of island life: bright sunshine, fresh air, high visibility, broad and smooth highways free of checkpoint and tollbooth. Hainan is a paradise for motorists.

In the intersections between the lanes were flowers in full blossom, and on both sides of the road lay endless greenery. Hainan is the only province in China with such scenic highways.

I exited the highway at Qionghai and continued my drive eastwards. Soon I reached the Suofeit Hotel in Boao, a new five-star hotel, which will serve as the permanent venue of the Asian Forum conference.

After supper, I went into the town of Boao and checked into the Jinjiang Hotel. It has a wonderful ambience and from here, I could see the former International Conference. Early the next morning, I walked up to the roof of the hotel to take photos of the sunrise over the sea. The moment I got my tripod ready, the sun jumped out of the eastern sea. The surrounding water and Boao as a whole turned gold. The Wanquan River woke up with chugging motorboats and fleets of boats shouldering their way out to sea.

From the lush hotel garden, noises came from the swimming pool — the early birds making the most of the island paradise.

The price of gasoline in Hainan is higher than on the mainland, including Shenzhen, so it's more economical to drive a low-exhaust car.

The Jinjiang Hotel (four-star) is located at the mouth of Wanquan River. From the balcony you can see the Yudai Shoal, Wanquan River, the South China Sea and former Conference Centre for the Boao Forum. Rate: 500 yuan/room after discount.

Forum conference entry ticket: 50 yuan (including a visit to the Yudai Shoal by boat).

A water fight between rafters on the Wanquan River.

Stop 3 The Wanquan River

Round-Island Travel in Hainan

The Wanquan River is one of the natural landmarks of Hainan Island. The river's crystal-clear water winds around the foot of Wuzhi (Five Finger) Mountain before it reaches Qionghai City and empties into the South China Sea at Boao. Rainforests stretch along the banks, creating unique and beautiful scenery. The unspoiled environment has earned the river valley the soubriquet of "Oxygen Valley".

River rafting at Wanquan becomes a new attraction. The journey starts at Yanyuan and ends 15 km away at Huishan Township. The complete river tour takes almost a day, and includes the cruise through the six-kilometre gorge upstream.

Travel Notes: Once in Qionghai, I headed straight to river raft. The road cut through beautiful green countryside. I soon left the highway and drove along winding country roads, which had coconut groves and farmhouses on both sides. I crossed one river after another. The drive was a great pleasure.

River rafting starts at the Niululing Reservoir Dam, where passengers board a ship and sail upstream for six kilometres to the Yanyuan Hydropower Station, passing through extraordinary landscapes dotted with primeval forests and waterfalls. When the ship entered the narrow gorge, the more adventurous passengers tried activities such as swinging across a stream on a rattan, gliding from a cliff, or rock climbing.

The ship took us back to Niululing for lunch. I then joined the rafting crew with several passengers from Shanghai. The river changed frequently, sometimes smooth and quiet, sometimes rapid and white. At Changtan (Long Beach), the current became so torrential that for several hundred metres, our rubber dinghy bumped along, and we seemed to be riding a horse. Compared with similar programs, the pricing for river rafting is the most reasonable. There is no time limit; and when the boat reaches shallow shoals, passengers can get off to frolic in the water until they have had enough fun, and are thoroughly soaked and tired.

You can take the highway to Sanya at Qionghai and exit at Baishiling. After 48 km, following the road signs, you'll reach the place for river rafting.

The Wanquan River Rafting Co. locates at 88 Dongfeng Road, Qionghai. A shuttle bus leaves for the starting point at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; charge: 168 yuan/person. Tourists can also register in Haikou: Zhuyuan Villa, Haijingwan Garden, Haikou; or Jinhe Flats, Xinfeng Road, Sanya. The cost of a day tour of the Wanquan River, including rafting, lunch and transportation from and to Haikou is 198 yuan.

You can easily spend half a day river rafting at the Wanquan River.

A tour at the Xinglong Tropical Garden will give you the chance to learn about the environment.

Stop 4: Xinglong

Round-Island Travel in Hainan

Xinglong Tropical Garden is six kilometres from the Xinglong Hot Springs Resort, with Nanwang Reservoir in the centre. Covering more than 400 ha, it has 1,935 species of local plants, including 18 under state protection, and over 2,000 that have been imported from abroad or other Chinese provinces. Its main plants are palms and cycads, and tropical orchids. The garden has developed separate areas for tropical plants, farm and fruit and flower tours, in addition to a tropical plants research center. In 1996, the World Environmental Protection Organization listed the garden as one of China's four environmental-protection models.

Travel Notes: I did not drive through to the Xinglong Tropical Garden the first day, but stopped at Xinglong.

Thanks to the convenience of having a car, I discovered Niuling Ridge and followed the winding road to the top, from where I had a wonderful view of the sea and the highway lining the coastline. Then, I drove to Meiwan Bay as the sign indicated. A newly opened scenic spot, it has kept its rustic atmosphere. The restaurants run by fishermen held a great welcome for their customers; on the beach, the fishing boats pulled up on shore. Later, I

reached Xinglong and checked into a villa in Kangleyuan, where I had tropical plants and flowers outside my window.

When I was visiting the Xinglong Tropical Garden, I caught up with Zheng Wentai, the owner, whom I first met seven years ago. At that time, it had been difficult to track down the wealthy Hong Kong man who was out planting flowers with his workers.

Zheng is an environmentalist now. The garden won the "Global 500 Environmental Award" in 1997. Last time I was here, Zheng, whose gardening business was still in its fledgling stages, concentrated all his attention on planting trees, rather than making a profit. The situation has changed completely. Around 10 a.m., I saw tourist buses bringing in visitors, so Zheng could make money and contribute to environmental protection.

The garden has expanded in scale too. Its forest now covers about 400 ha. Zheng introduced his treasures to me on a walk on the hill: the 6,000-year-old "dragon-blood" tree was one of the world's oldest plants; a variety of palm trees imported from Madagascar had leaves as long as 15 m; the red ginger flower was a rare species; another kind of palm tree had its roots exposed above the ground; and another plant had all its leaves growing anti-clockwise.

Xinglong Kangleyuan (five-star): 800 yuan/room;

Tropical Garden entry ticket: 20 yuan.

The road less travelled: drivers wanted.

Stop 5: Nanwan (South Bay)

Round-Island Travel in Hainan

Houdao, or Monkey Island, is situated off the Nanwan Peninsula. It is the only island in China that is a designated nature reserve for rhesus monkeys. Covering 10.2 km², it is a sanctuary for monkeys, as well as about 20 other species, such as Sambar deer, small feline animals, otters and pangolins. It is also home to 30 species of birds, including the Hainan partridge and hoopoe. Monkey numbers have increased from 1,800 in 1995 to 2,500.

Travel Notes: Nanwan is a small town. As soon as you disembark your car or bus, you'll be surrounded by hawkers who offer to take you to Monkey Island by boat for 10 yuan. Though it's cheaper, including the entry charge of 30 yuan, it's not as interesting as the cable tramway.

From the cable tramway, we had a panoramic view of the bay, where more than 500 fishing boats floated on the sea. The fishermen's nets divided the water into a checked pattern.

At the cable tramway station, we saw a group of monkeys cooling themselves by a pond. Again and again, they jumped from the trees into the pond, to cool down and to frolic. They were very polite to visitors, not like the mischievous monkeys on Mount Emei in Sichuan Province. The smart ones, however, had to give several shows a day. Their skillful and humorous performances, including acrobatics, were loudly applauded by the audience.

We did not take the cable tramway back. Instead, we walked on to a fishing raft and had a sumptuous lunch in one of the restaurants on the water.

There is no sign for Nanwan, a town in Lingshui County, on the highway from Haikou to Sanya, but after passing Xinglong, the sign for Lingshui appears. Only in Lingshui can you find the sign for Nanwan.

There are six restaurants built on the fishing rafts, all spacious and unique. You can order live seafood from the trunk nets to be cooked as you wait. Dishes include: Pearl Clam Fried with Balsam Pear: 20 yuan; Sea-cap Fish Cooked with Soy Sauce: 35 yuan; Beauty Conch: 40 yuan/kg; various crabs: 60 yuan/kg. The fish porridge is very delicious and many customers come back especially for it.

Set ticket for Monkey Island: 68 yuan (including entry and round-trip cable tramway).

Monkeys on the Monkey Island in Nanwan make friends with the visitors. (photo by Maozi)

A tour on the Rainforest Trail can be both educational and pleasurable.

Stop 6: Wuzhi (Five Finger) Mountain

Wuzhi Mountain is the highest mountain in Hainan. Its 1,300-m summit is the main landmark. The mountain is so named because its rugged peaks resemble the five fingers of a hand. Five Finger Mountain abounds with rainforests and most of the rivers on Hainan Island originate here.

A mountain trail has been built for visitors to reach the rainforests. It starts from the Thousand-Year-Old Banyan Trees, at Shangcun Village in Shuiman Township, winds upstream along the Shuiman Stream and ends two kilometres at the viewpoint on Wuzhi Mountain.

Travel Notes: The road up the mountain is not good, particularly the latter part. However, it makes a change after driving on highways. Several times, I encountered cattle. Once a calf crouched in the middle of the road. Only after I sounded the horn several times did it move reluctantly.

Sometimes, the road became very rough and I had to move cautiously to avoid stones. Sometimes, I had to let the wheels run on the ridges left by previous vehicles so that the undercarriage did not hit the ground.

At dusk, we reached the Wuzhi Mountain Holiday Village, a three-star hotel. We had a barbecue dinner, with beef as the main dish. The beef, tender and succulent, was the best I ever had. The locals told us that the meat was from cattle raised in the wilderness on Wuzhi Mountain. Though not big, it is named Wuzhi Mountain Buffalo.

After dinner, we took a walk. There was lightening on the mountain and the wind became cool, indicating the coming rain. When I slept in the villa that night, it was so cool that I had to wrap myself in a padded quilt, something I had never expected in the mid-summer of Hainan.

The next morning, we left the holiday village for the rainforest trail. Mr. Wu, manager of the administrative area, who was accompanying us, introduced the trees along the way. We learned that the "heavenly flower fruit", or seven-colour flower, is a medicinal herbal cure for throat inflammation; Chongyang is the best wood for making coffins; Shuiman tea grows in the wilderness at more than 800 m above sea level; a special species of tree can always grow again after being cut; a grass called "Airplane" and the wild peony can stop bleeding, and a hard wood is so precious that its timber is sold by the kilogram... And amazingly, the buffaloes grazing on the slopes, according to Wu, were raised by the local farmers. They were having a "vacation" of three months during the rice season and would return to their masters when the rice was ready for harvest.

The trail ended at Shuiman Upper Village, a typical Li ethnic community. With 13 households and more than 70 people, it is the highest village in Hainan Province. The villagers make a living farming rice and brewing wine. The name of their village, Shuiman, means "good" in the Li language. The village is good in many ways: there is a lavatory for each family and each household has its own methane-generating pit to provide the fuel it needs. The village has also built a reservoir on the top of the mountain to supply running water to every household.

Wu told us that the administrative office guaranteed that there was at least one person in each family working and household incomes had reached 5,000 yuan a year or more, enough to buy a tractor.

While we were talking, I found we had reached the entrance to the trail, where several giant thousand-year-old trees stood. We had come full circle.

On rainy days, a jeep is recommended for Wuzhi Mountain. The 25 km road from Wuzhi Mountain Holiday Village to Nansheng is muddy and very slippery.

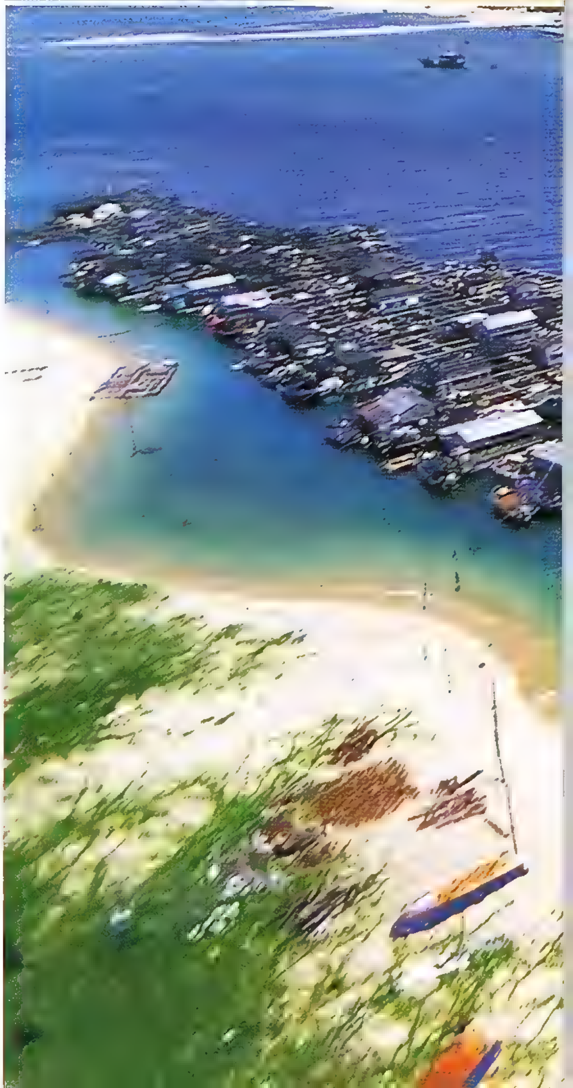
Wuzhi Mountain Holiday Village (three-star): 350 yuan/room, Shuimanyuan Resort (three-star): 380 yuan/room;

Shuimanyuan Restaurant has a round dining hall surrounded by fruit trees. Its rib and chicken soup plus fried ants costs 38 yuan; Stewed Piggy Pork: 38 yuan; Jili Beef Roll: 4 yuan/piece; Shuiman Steak: 4 yuan/piece; other dishes on the menu include Deer-Tongue Vegetable (a wild vegetable rich in vitamin B loved by deer as well as the local Li people); White Flower Vegetable, which grows near the Baihualing Fall and is good for detoxifying the body and lowering blood pressure; Shanlan Stone Forest Fish; and pancake made of eggs and Leigong root. A set of Shuiman-style dishes costs 380 yuan.

Rainforest Trail entry ticket: 10 yuan.

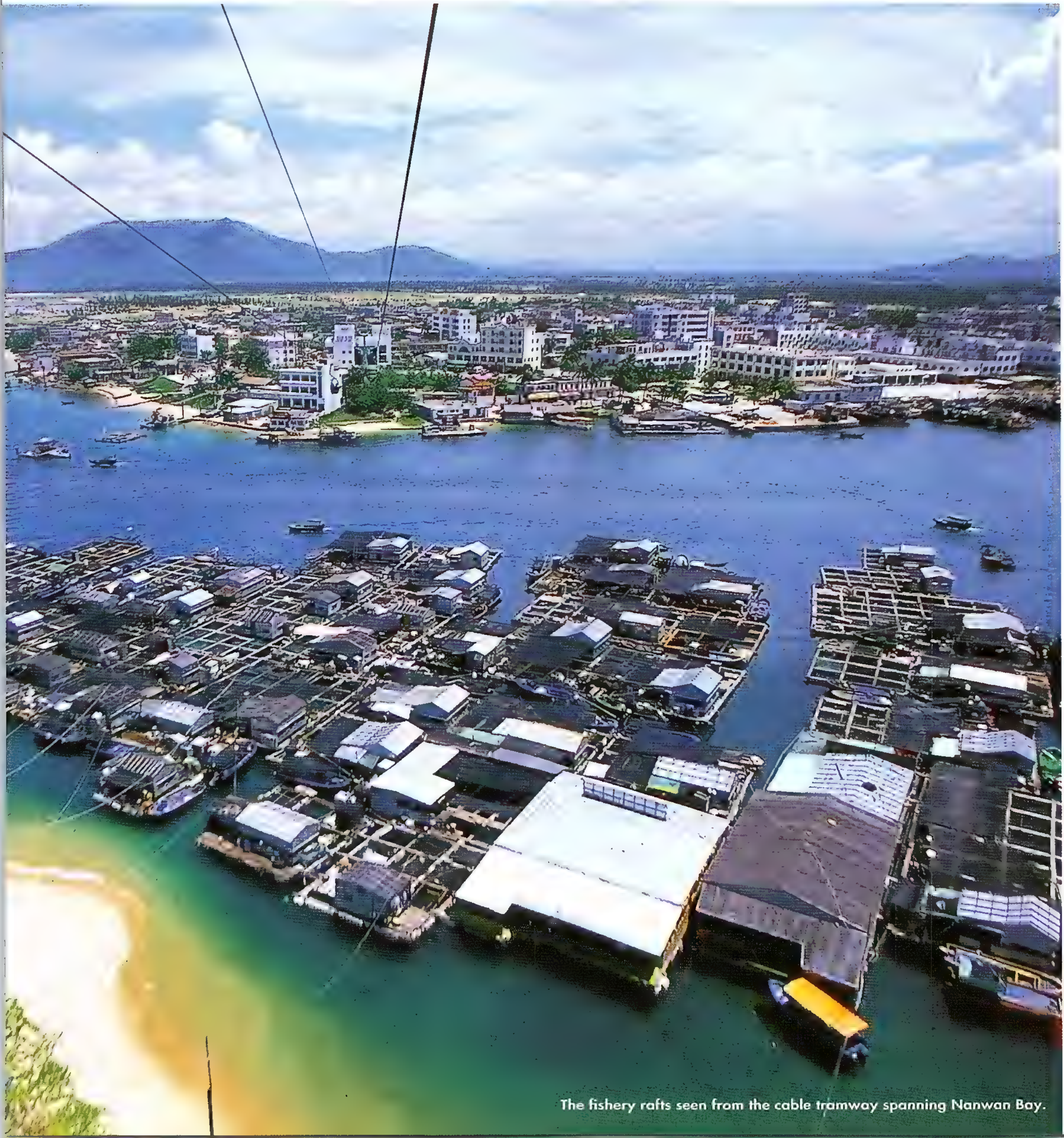
Enjoying barbecue beef by a forest in Wuzhi Mountain.

An encounter with buffaloes on a mountain road

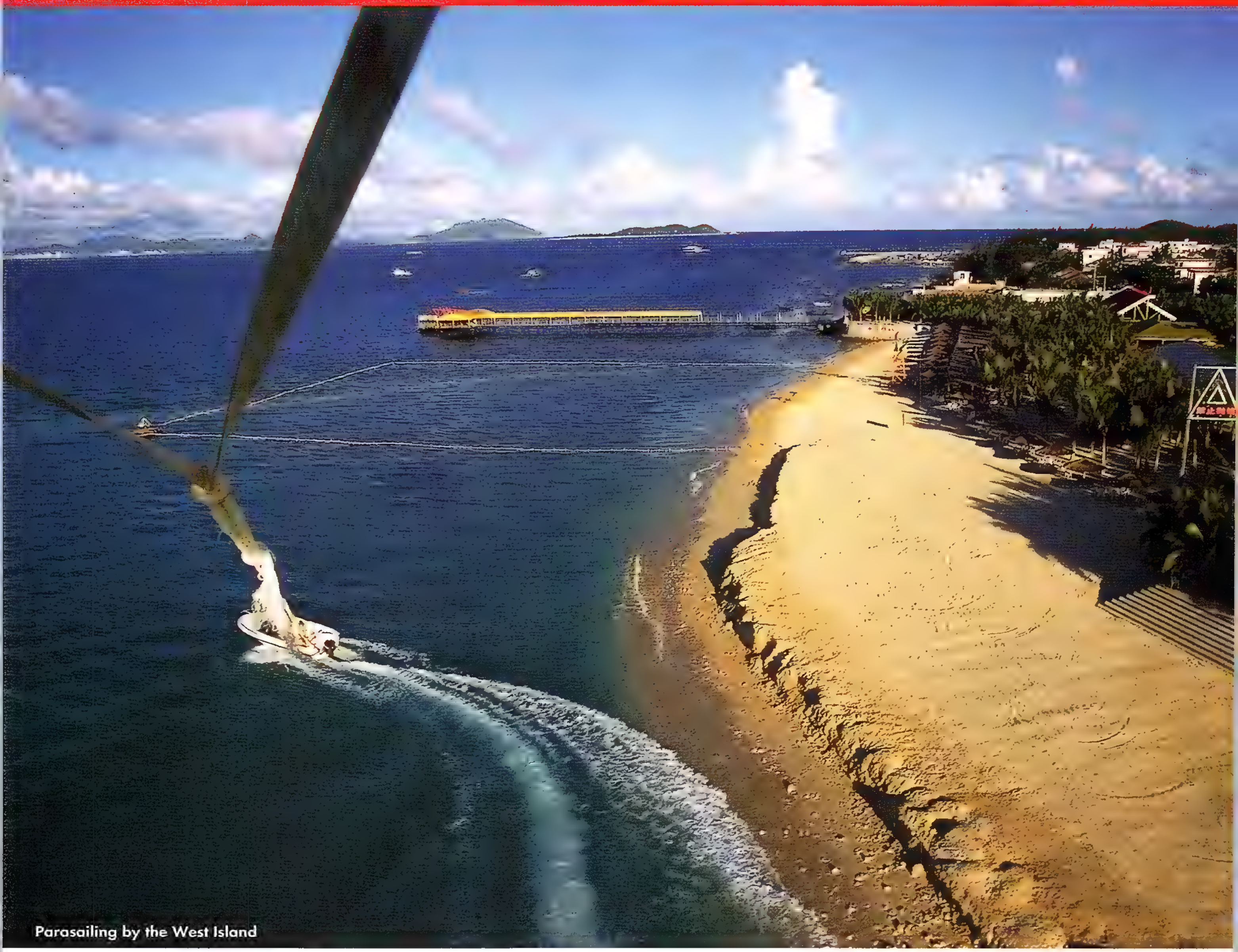


Mr. Wu's Retirement Plan

[illegible]



The fishery rafts seen from the cable tramway spanning Nanwan Bay.



Parasailing by the West Island

Fly like a bird

Stop 7: Sanya

Round-Island Travel in Hainan

Xidao (West Island) is a new tourist attraction in Sanya, in addition to the more popular resorts of Tianya Haijiao (The Ends of the Earth) and Yalong Bay. The island of three square kilometers, which is also called Hawksbill Turtle Island, is famous for its fresh air, fine beaches and beautiful coral reefs. Among the recreational programs for tourists are angling, diving, motorboat riding, surfing, gliding, sailing, undersea walking and glass-bottom boat cruises. On the western side of the island, where the crystal-clear water is 10 to 20 m deep, visitors can see beautiful angular and crown corals, as well as tropical fish such as the lionfish, clownfish, green-clothed fish and immortal fish.

Travel Notes: The weather was very hot in Sanya, so it required great determination to leave my cool and comfortable room in the Haihang Hotel to go out in the scorching sun.

Of the popular scenic spots, I visited only Yalong Bay. The Nanshan Temple, which was developed recently with a huge amount of investment, did not appeal to me as the temple buildings were so new.

Another new scenic spot, Yemeng (Coconut Dream) Corridor, is situated just outside the Haihang Hotel. Extending a dozen kilometers along the Sanya Bay, it is a green belt with coconut trees, flowers, lawns and beaches on one side and modern hotels on the other side.

The liveliness of West Island was beyond my expectations. Though it costs 160 yuan for a round trip sea cruise and the programs offered are expensive, the island attracts throngs of visitors every day. When I saw the paraglider in the air, I was suddenly inspired to get a photograph from aloft. But cameras were forbidden while paragliding. I eventually managed to persuade the attendants to let me take my camera, promising that if it fell into the sea, it would be my bad luck and not their responsibility. When I put on the parachute suit, which was fastened to the motorboat by a long cable, I recited the regulations I had been told. The next minute, I was up in the air.

It was a fine day and the bird's-eye view of West Island was extraordinary. Unfortunately, my body was swaying all the time and the thick cable blocked my sight, making it very difficult to take picture. It was almost impossible to turn around. Only when the motorboat turned could I snatch a few pictures by turning my body to one side. When it was time to land, I followed the instructions and grasped the cable on the right on hearing the first whistle and released it on the second whistle. I landed on the beach safely.

On the other side of the island was a body-painting show but photography was forbidden.

It takes just five minutes to drive from the Haihang Hotel to the ferry for West Island.

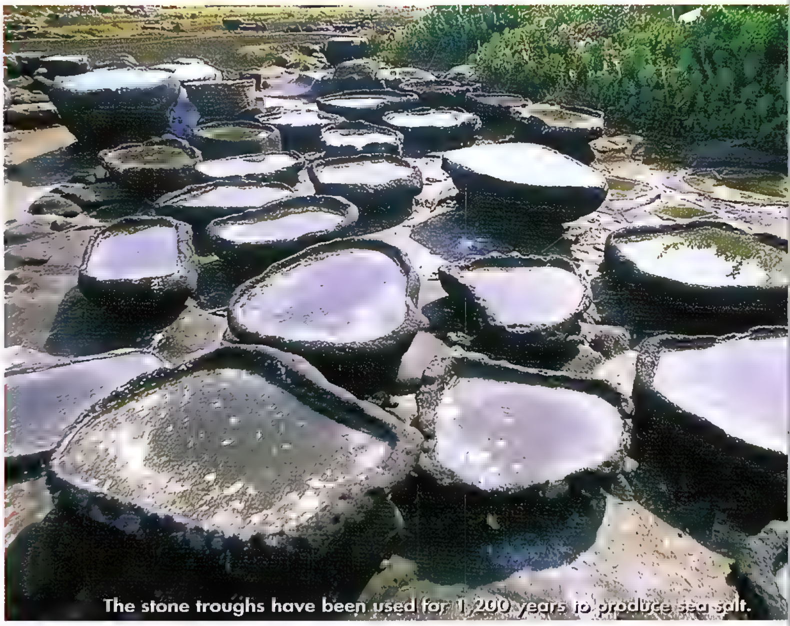
Haihang Hotel in Sanya (five-star): 798 yuan. It is situated by the beautiful Coconut Dream Corridor and near the ferry to West Island.

The Yecheng Food Square on the seaside at Dadonghai is a good place to eat delicious seafood, while enjoying the waves and sea breeze, and the sunset. The food and the scenery make you reluctant to leave.

Power boating at the West Island coast

The crystal clear water is a magnet for divers on West Island.

Coconut Dream Corridor


The stone troughs have been used for 1,200 years to produce sea salt.

Stop 8: Yingge, Dongfang

Round-Island Travel in Hainan

The Yingge Sea Salt Field is on the seashore southwest of Ledong. Established in 1958, the enterprise covering 3,793 ha produces 250,000 tons a year. It is the largest sea salt producer in Hainan. The salt field lies between the sea and the peaks of Jianfeng Ridge, which block the typhoons and rains from the north. The year-round hot and sunny weather makes it an ideal place for salt production.

When the high tides come, seawater runs into the deposit lake. Then, it is pumped to the three dehydration ponds. The brine, which becomes increasingly condensed, is then sent for crystallization.

Travel Notes: Beside the beautiful name of Yingge, which means "Oriole Singing", the sign of the salt field marked on the map caught my attention. Setting off from Sanya, I drove more than an hour to the Yingge Sea, from where I left the highway and turned on to an earthen road. It was winding and in bad condition, but the drive excited me. Now, in retrospect, I guess I must have chosen the old path.

When I finally reached the sea field, I saw in front of me a vast land covered in snow-white crystals, with small ridges divided into square plots.

The sun was scorching. Without looking too long, I stood by the sunning ponds for a few minutes and left.

Soon I arrived in Dongfang. Strangely, it is the westernmost city on Hainan Island, but has the name of Dongfang, meaning "East". After lunch, I visited the tourist office, hoping to get some information, but found nobody there. After three fruitless visits, I gave up. On hearing there was a scenic spot called Yulinzhou (Fish Scale Shoal), I decided to visit it. When I passed the port, I saw big ships, cranes and many people busy loading or unloading. Amazingly, there was a huge windmill. By the seaside, there was an earth mound, which, I was told, was the Fish Scale Shoal... It was really disappointing. There should be more scenic spots in Dongfang, but this was all I saw.

You can bypass Yingge Sea and drive from Sanya to Ledong, following a county-level road, from where you can go to Dongfang. On the road is Daguangba Scenic Area with landscapes resembling those of Guilin.

Yingge Sea Salt Field Reception House: 100 yuan/room; Dongfang Hotel: 260 yuan/room.

Bawangling is one of the four rainforest-areas in Hainan, and it is a well-protected ecological environment.

Stop 9: Bawangling

Round-Island Travel in Hainan

Bawangling is one of the four rainforest-areas in Hainan. The endangered Hainan black-crown gibbon has made it famous. With a well-protected ecological environment, the area is suitable for tropical plants and animals. It is one of China's richest tropical areas, where you find the nation's largest natural forest of South Asian pine, the largest wild green plum grove and the oldest wild lichee trees.

Travel Notes: I left Dongfang for Changjiang and arrived in Shilu Town, the county seat of Changjiang, the same day.

In the bustling town of Shilu, I found the tourist office and asked about Bawangling. A young lady told me, "It would be difficult for you to find it. I'll send my younger sister to go with you early tomorrow morning." It was nice to find the local people who were so honest and sincere, and so trusting of a stranger like me.

Since there was still some time before sunset, I went to the railway station to see the steam engines. But there, I was told that a month ago, the old engines were all retired and replaced by gasoline engines, symbolizing the end of an era.

The next morning, the sister of the tourist officer and her classmate arrived as arranged. They had taken the college entrance exams and were waiting for the result. We drove to Bawangling Town and climbed the mountain. There were Li villages along the road; and time and again, we saw farmers collecting rubber in the roadside groves. As the road leading to the mountaintop was under reconstruction, it was hard driving. Soon the road becomes too difficult for the car.

We parked at a half-completed holiday resort not yet finished and began our hike. Soon we saw the Yajia Waterfall. As there was not much water because of the drought, we took off our shoes and climbed on the huge rocks. There were several stone pits, seven to eight metres deep and looking like man-made holes.

You need a 4X4 for the road on Bawangling. If you drive, it is advisable to park halfway up the mountain and walk to the top.

Changjiang Hotel (three-star): 220 yuan/room;

Entry: Bawangling has free entry at present.

Cars are allowed to drive straight on to the busy Dongfang Port.

Stop 10: Yangpu

Round-Island Travel in Hainan

Yangpu is one of Hainan's important seaports, where a development zone has been established.

Yantian (Salt Field) Village is situated in the bay. As its name suggests, the village was developed on salt fields and today, and it maintains a salt field of around 15 ha. The various primitive tools for salt making, such as the ink-stone-like troughs, looked like art works decorating the salt field.

Salt makers of Putian, Fujian Province, moved to the Yangpu Peninsula 1,200 years ago. When they boiled seawater to make salt, they found there was a thin layer of salt on the rocks. This taught them that by drying seawater on rocks, they could produce salt as well. Using stones left by an ancient volcanic eruption, they built troughs to keep seawater, leaving it for the sun to dry.

Travel Notes: I drove onto State Highway 225 after leaving Changjiang. There was a lot of greenery along the road. I did not stop at the tropical botanical garden as I had visited the much bigger one in Xinglong. That night, I stayed at the Lanyang (Blue Ocean) Hot Spring Hotel, 14 km from Danzhou. The following day, I drove to Yangpu via Danzhou. The Yangpu Development Zone looked modern and the city was well planned, with broad roads and impressive buildings, as well as large tracts of land awaiting development.

Yantian Village sits in the crater of a volcano and it was even more wonderful than I had imagined. The salt fields as a whole appeared like a huge ink-stone. It was hard to believe that those stone troughs were 1,200 years old. Of the 160 households in Yantian, 48 were involved in salt making.

When I arrived, the villagers were building a road outside the village. Chen Erjie, the village head, explained that since their village had become a tourist spot, they had to improve its appearance. I was told that the salt produced here was particularly good, so I bought a bag from the field of an old man before I left.

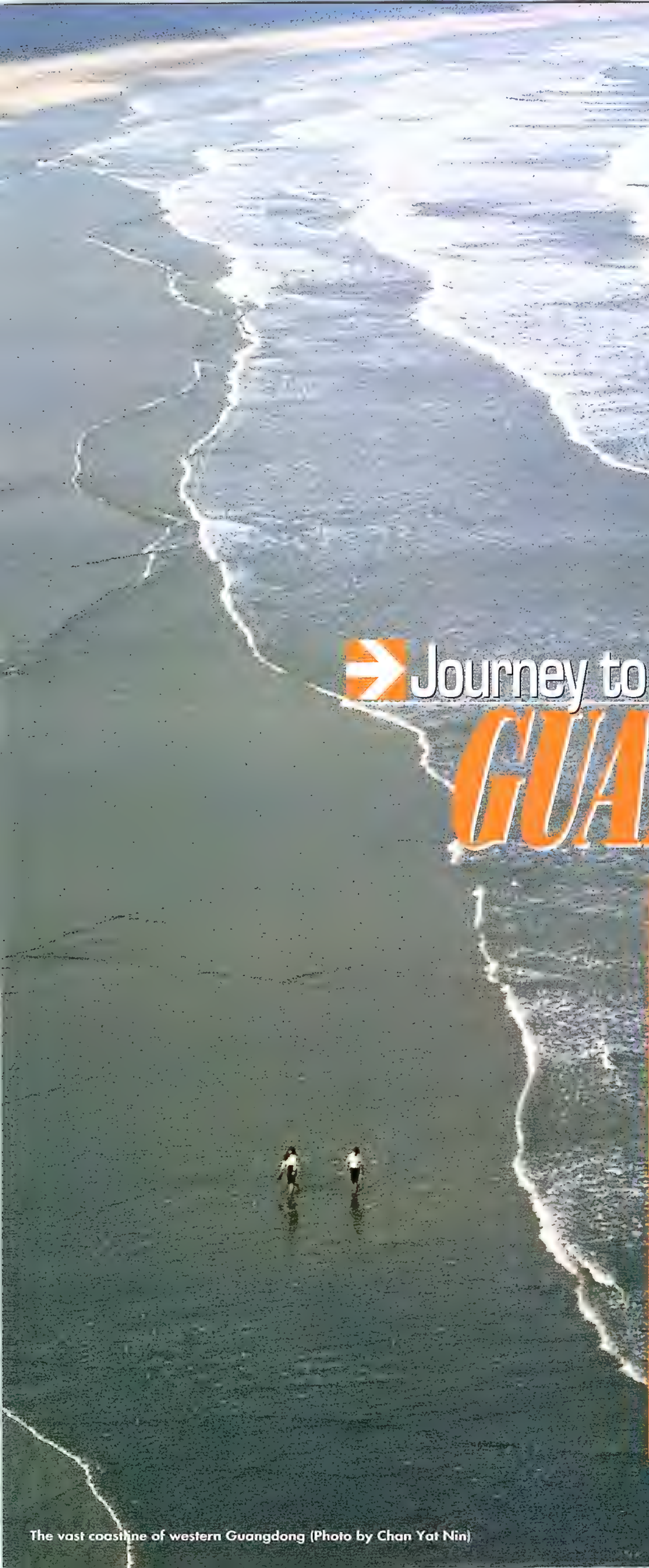
My drive on Hainan Island ended at Haikou, the capital of the province. Cleaning the car, I glanced at the distance meter and saw I had driven 1,658 km.

You have two choices for driving from Changjiang to Danzhou. I recommend State Highway 225, which may be longer but offers better scenery. The roadside trees provide cool shadows to make a pleasant drive. As the signs on the road from Danzhou to Yangpu are unclear, you need to ask about the highway to the western shore. Beyond the highway, the road to Yangpu is in wonderful condition and it takes less than an hour to reach there.

Danzhou Lanyang Hot Spring Hotel (three-star): 230 yuan/room (including free hot spring baths).

Snow-white salt comes out in the afternoon after the brine is dried in the scorching sun.

Journey to the West Coast of GUANGDONG



The vast coastline of western Guangdong (Photo by Chan Yat Nin)

Pineapples sold outside of Zhuhai are small but delicious

Distance: Five days.

Route: Shenzhen → Zhuhai → Yamen → Shangchuan → Hailing → Enping → Taishan → Shenzhen.

Attractions: Local lifestyle, fishing ports, hot springs, ancient batteries and fortresses.

Roads: Express ways and state highways, in good condition.

Vehicle: 1.6 Citroen.

Gas consumption: 90 litres of 90# gasoline, totaling 355 yuan.

Road charges: 290 yuan in total.

Stop 1: Yamen

Journey to the West Coast of Guangdong

The Yamen Battery is located on the east bank of Yamenkou in Xinhui, Guangdong Province. In 1279, during the Southern Song Dynasty, the emperor built more than 3,000 military camps here to station over 200,000 soldiers. In February that year, the Song army fought the Yuan forces on Yinzhou lake. The Yuan soldiers occupied the surrounding areas and cut off the supply line of the Song army stationed on Yashan Hill. The Song army was soon defeated and the young emperor Zhao Bing killed themselves at the foot of the hill. The Song Dynasty thus ended its rule. During this period, Wen Tianxiang, another prime minister of the Song, who was captured by the enemy, famously wrote: "Of people since ancient times, who has never died? Those who die for their nation will be remembered for ever."

Travel Notes: Guangdong is known for its high road charges as I quickly found out. Soon after I paid 40 yuan at the highway exit of Humen, I had to pay another 40 yuan to pass the Humen Bridge. The 4,800-m-long bridge is magnificent but too expensive for my liking.

My first destination was the ancient Yamen Battery and the place where the young Song emperor jumped into the sea. Yamen Battery is located in Gujing Town, and some primary school students from the neighbourhood told me that of the 22 cannons displayed, only three are original. I looked carefully, and found on each of those three the names of the responsible officials as well as the makers and the year of their making.

Opposite are Ya'nan and the Jinmen Bridge. On this side, three kilometers from the battery, there is the Yashan Temple on the top of the hill. The ancient battlefield lies at the foot. In the Guomu (National Mother) Hall of the temple, a group of sculptures depicts how the empress tried her best to protect her child, the would-be emperor, during the final days of the Song Dynasty. It was a tragic moment in Chinese history. Walking six kilometres from the Yashan Temple, I reached Guanchong Village, where the site of the young emperor's suicide jump into the sea has been preserved. It was not easy to find because there were no signs on the road. When I finally found it, I still could not approach it, as it was in the middle of a naval port, a military establishment.

Yamen Battery, the site of an historic tragedy.

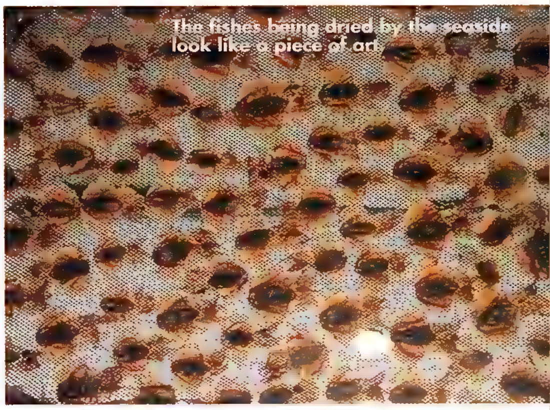
Passing Zhongshan, you have two choices:

1) Go to Ya'nan via Zhuhai and then turn north. Though it is marked as a main road on the "Map of Guangdong Communication" published in 2002,but the route is complicated and very hard to follow. I asked twice in Zhuhai, but still had no idea where to go — Jinding or Xiangzhou? After driving 10 km towards Xiangzhou, I retreated and asked for help again. This time, I chose Jinding, from where I turned left and after driving 800 m, made another left turn to drive on to a mountain road. After passing the Nazhou checkpoint, I went another two kilometres to reach a fork in the road, where I turned left and drove 13 km, passing Sangong and Ping'an, a town with European-style buildings, to reach Madou. Turning left and driving through Shenwan Town, I entered Doumen County via the Doumen Bridge. After passing another bridge, I arrived in Ya'nan Town and followed the highway to Zhuhai Airport. Again, there were no signs and I was puzzled by the exits. Fortunately, after another bridge and another left turn, I finally reached Yamen. You'd better try another route.

2) Following this route, you drive from Zhongshan to Jiangmen and turn south to reach Xinhui and Ya'nan.

Fill your fuel tank before you set off. The first gas station is 112 km from Shenzhen. Furthermore, as the highway between Jinmen and Yangjiang is still not complete, there is no gas station for 160 km.

Battery entry: 5 yuan.



The fishes being dried by the seaside look like a piece of art

Shangchuan Island is also a diving paradise.

Stop 2: Shangchuan Island

Shangchuan Island, lying off the southwest of Taishan, is composed of a main island and 12 smaller landforms. The main island is divided into the areas of Sanzhou, Feishatan and Shadi. Its 12 sea beaches with fine sand extend more than 30 km in total. Feishatan (Flying Sand Beach) is the best equipped and has developed recreational programs such as gliding and power boating. The Golden Sand and Silvery Sand beaches are not yet developed and remain in their natural conditions. Shadi, a fishing port, is one of the three major ports of its kind in Guangdong Province. On the island is a park built in memory of a missionary, Francisco Javier, who came to the island in 1552. Besides a church, there is also a monument and a stone statue of him.

Travel Notes: I travelled to Shangchuan Island the next day. Originally, I planned to leave for Xiachuan Island, but gave up because I found I had to detour to Shanzui Port to board a ship. As a result, I stayed one more night on Shangchuan Island.

Feishatan, which has been a developed tourist spot for several years, offers activities such as gliding and power boating. It attracts more travellers than other spots on the island.

After 5 p.m. middle-aged and elderly women came to collect conches, making a wonderful scene. Under the setting sun, they walked backwards, their bodies bent, each with a rope fastened to the back. On the other end of the rope was a steel plate. When they moved forward, the plate ploughed into the sand. Now and then, someone would bend down to pick up a conch. I asked how much they could make from this, the answer was 20 yuan per kilogram.

I stayed at Shadi Port that night. In the evening, some friends and I bought several bottles of beer and a plate of peanuts and, sitting at the table by the seaside, we passed the time chatting and watching the boats and passengers coming and going.

The following morning, we hired a boat to visit the fishing rafts, where every day at around 7 a.m., the fishermen feed their stocks. As the boat sailed among the densely packed rafts, I took photos. The boatman's seven-year-old son was very naughty. Whenever I was not looking, he would snap the shutter and then run away, smiling on hearing the click. He succeeded three times.

Be careful not to miss the exit for Shangchuan. At Shanzui Port, you can park and take a ferry to Shangchuan Island. The ferries leave every half hour and the fare is 35 yuan/person. From Sanzhou Port on Shangchuan Island, it costs 5 yuan to Shadi (23 km) or Feishatan. Hiring a taxi for 150 yuan, you can visit the major scenic spots in half a day.

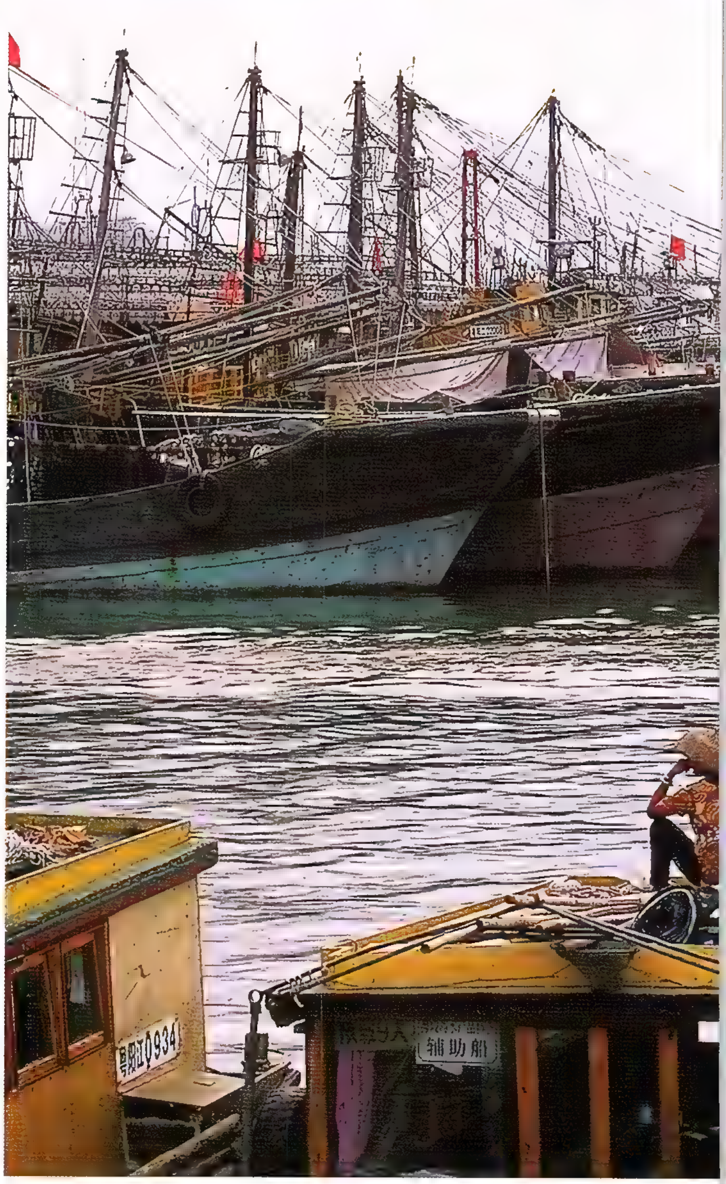
Some sections of the Jinmen-Shangchuan highway are built on soft foundations and you should watch your speed carefully to avoid hazards.

Haiba Hotel: 200 yuan/room;

A dinner at the restaurant of Haiba Hotel at Feishatan is worth trying. Blood clams 16 yuan/kg; prawns 50 yuan/kg; crabs 40 yuan/kg

Xinyuelai Restaurant at Shanzui Port serves seafood such as oysters, conches and clams at reasonable prices.

Fishermen repairing their equipme



Fishermen on Shangchuan Island collecting conches

Fo[illegible] scenery along the highway of western Guangdong

Stop 3: Hailing Island

Journey to the West Coast of Guangdong

Located in Yangjiang County, Hailing Island has an attractive scenic area at Dajiaowan, or Big Angle Bay, at its southwestern tip. On the 245-m beach, you can surf, play in a rubber dinghy, go power boating, horse ride, camel ride, play beach volleyball and water-ski. Zhapo, by the Big Angle Bay, is an ancient town with fishing as its major industry. Early every morning, when the fishing boats return, the town becomes busy and energetic. The Shili Silvery Beach is the longest of its kind in China at five kilometres.

Travel Notes: I drove from Shangchuan to Yangjiang and at the 100-km point turned on to the seaside highway. Following the sign for Zhapo, I turned left and arrived in Hailing Island after driving 40 km.

A long embankment with the sea on both sides leads to the island. Under the scorching sun, fishermen were catching fish in water as deep as their chests.

I first visited Shili Silvery Beach. It was very quiet with just a few visitors. Every morning, fishermen catch fish here by throwing their nets into the water and drawing them on to the shore.

Zhapo, on the other hand, is a busy port crowded with fishing boats. The next morning, I got up early to see fishermen draw their nets on to the beach. It is a primitive method of fishing. The 30 people divided themselves into two teams to drag the heavy nets up. When this was done, they began picking small fish from the net. I then drove around the island. I had the windows wide open to enjoy the greenery, the smell of the earth, the sea and the grass, as well as the breeze. Occasionally, I saw cooking smoke rising from farmers' houses and farmers working in their fields.

After leaving the highway at the exit for Yangjiang, you're still on a good road. Be careful of the many exists with vehicles and pedestrians going in and out, as it is not a highway. You will be charged 5 yuan for driving on the embankment.

It takes three hours to drive from the north ring road of Guangzhou to Yangjiang, via Guangzhou-Foshan Highway and State Highway 323. From Yangjiang to Zhapo, it is 45 km and takes half an hour.

There are many hotels on Hailing Island, including Nanfang Holiday Hotel, Yinbo Hotel, Jinfeng Hotel and Jinshawan Hotel, whose standard day prices range from 200 yuan to 300 yuan. There are also hotels such as Longxiang, which charges 100 yuan plus, in addition to beach cottages and tents for rent.

Besides seafood, there are local dishes and snacks in Zhapo, such as fish-meat balls, fish noodles and rice cooked with Spanish mackerel. The place is famous for several species of fish, including Spanish mackerel. Local snacks like Danjia cuisine, shrimp pancake and roasted seafood are worth trying.

The food stalls on the Silvery Beach also serve good food. It is a wonderful experience to taste the strangely named dishes such as "Walking Sand Chicken" and "Earth Net Fish" on the beach at dusk. Nanhai No. 1 is a big restaurant by the side of the Linghai embankment. Its seafood is great and the service is first class.

Fishing boats in the port of Hailing Island.

Travellers can stop wherever they find somewhere scenic.

Each small bathing pond of the Jinjiang Hot Springs has special medicinal herbs added for specific treatments.

Stop 4: Enping

Enping, called the "Backyard of the Pearl River Delta", is a good place to spend money. The Jinshan Hot Spring Holiday Village, the first of its kind in the area, attracted throngs of travellers as soon as it opened in 1997.

The four hot springs all provide hot, good-quality water, which contains elements good for the human body. Each of the hot springs gushes at least 2,000 m^3 of water a day. In 2000, the ecology-themed Didu (Imperial Capital) Hot Spring was developed; and this year, the Jinjiang Hot Spring opened to business.

Travel Notes: Leaving Hailing Island, I drove on state highways and new expressways most of the time. I went to see the Jinshan Hot Spring first. It is a pleasant place, with crops planted in the garden, giving a rustic atmosphere. In Enping, invited by some local friends, I visited the newly developed Jinjiang Hot Spring, by the Langdi River and backed by the Qixingkeng (Seven Star Pit) Primeval Forest.

Covered in the tree shadows are hot spring ponds, big and small, waterfalls, and bridges and streams. Jinjiang has two unique hot spring programs: surfing and drifting, which offer the excitement of playing in the waves. After supper, I went to take a hot spring bath. I found the small ponds all had herbs added, each having a particular therapeutic purpose. I tried all of them, guessing the herbs would do me good. In fact, some of them can dispel poisonous elements from the body; some can help wipe out stress; some, with wine added, accelerate the blood circulation to cheer you up; and another, with jasmine flowers, helps improve your respiratory system. Because of the dark light, I mistakenly entered the Chinese angelica pond, which helps regulate women's menstrual cycles. When I found out, I immediately changed to one for older people, which, with the bark of slender acanthopanax added, helps treat rheumatism and strengthen the bones.

Jinshan Hot Spring is located in Naji Town in the southern suburbs of Enping. You should leave State Highway 325 (Yangjiang-Guangzhou) to Dahuai Town, and turn left as the sign indicates and drive seven kilometres further. Jinjiang Hot Spring is located in Datian Town, 22 km from downtown Enping. Driving north from Enping, towards Langdi, you'll find the hot spring on the left of the highway.

Jinshan Hot Spring: 350-1,680 yuan; Jinjiang Hot Spring: 488-1,998 yuan;

The restaurant of Jinjiang Hot Spring offers delicious dishes cooked with vegetables grown in the wilderness and fish and snails caught in the pools or streams of the rural areas.

Hot spring bath: 88 yuan/person (free for hotel guests).

Many of the fortresses feature Romanesque arches. (Photo by Yu Peilian)

These fortresses in the wilderness have witnessed the ups and downs of history. (Photo by Yu Peilian)

Stop 5: Fortresses in Kaiping

Journey to the West Coast of Guangdong

The fortresses that line tens of kilometres form a characteristic view of Kaiping. In the early years of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911 A.D.) the local people began to build fortresses to protect their families from floods and bandit attacks. In December 1922, when a group of bandits robbed the Kaiping Middle School and abducted the principal and 17 students, the searchlights in the fortress were turned on and the principal and students were saved. The event made national and international headlines, and the vital function of the fortress became widely known. As a consequence, many overseas Chinese returned to their hometowns to build fortresses. More than 3,000 fortresses were built in the county, though only 1,833 exist today.

Liyuan Garden formerly owned by Xie Weili, a Chinese who immigrated to the United States, was built in the early 20th century. With an architectural style combining both Chinese and Western characters, the fortress is now a tourist attraction.

Travel Notes: It was my last day of travel and I was reluctant to go home. Due to my poor judgment with road signs, I took a wrong turnoff and had to detour. I found the road signs were indeed troublesome. Very often, there were place names known only by the locals on the signs, which puzzled visiting motorists.

I drove on to State Highway 369, a nice road lined with trees. Though not wide, it is not crowded with vehicles and pedestrians. Once in the boundary of Kaiping, more buildings of various styles appeared. In the green fields, there were fortresses in mixtures of classic Chinese and Western architectures.

When I saw Liyuan Garden in Tangkou Town, I thought it was a private mansion, but instead, the garden was built about a century ago by Xie Weili, an overseas Chinese from Tangkou. I paid a visit to the mansion and learned that the buildings incorporated elements from the east and blended them with the Western villa style popular at the time. In each of the buildings is a fireplace, a bathtub and other Western facilities. On the water pump in the garden are cast words indicating it was an American product.

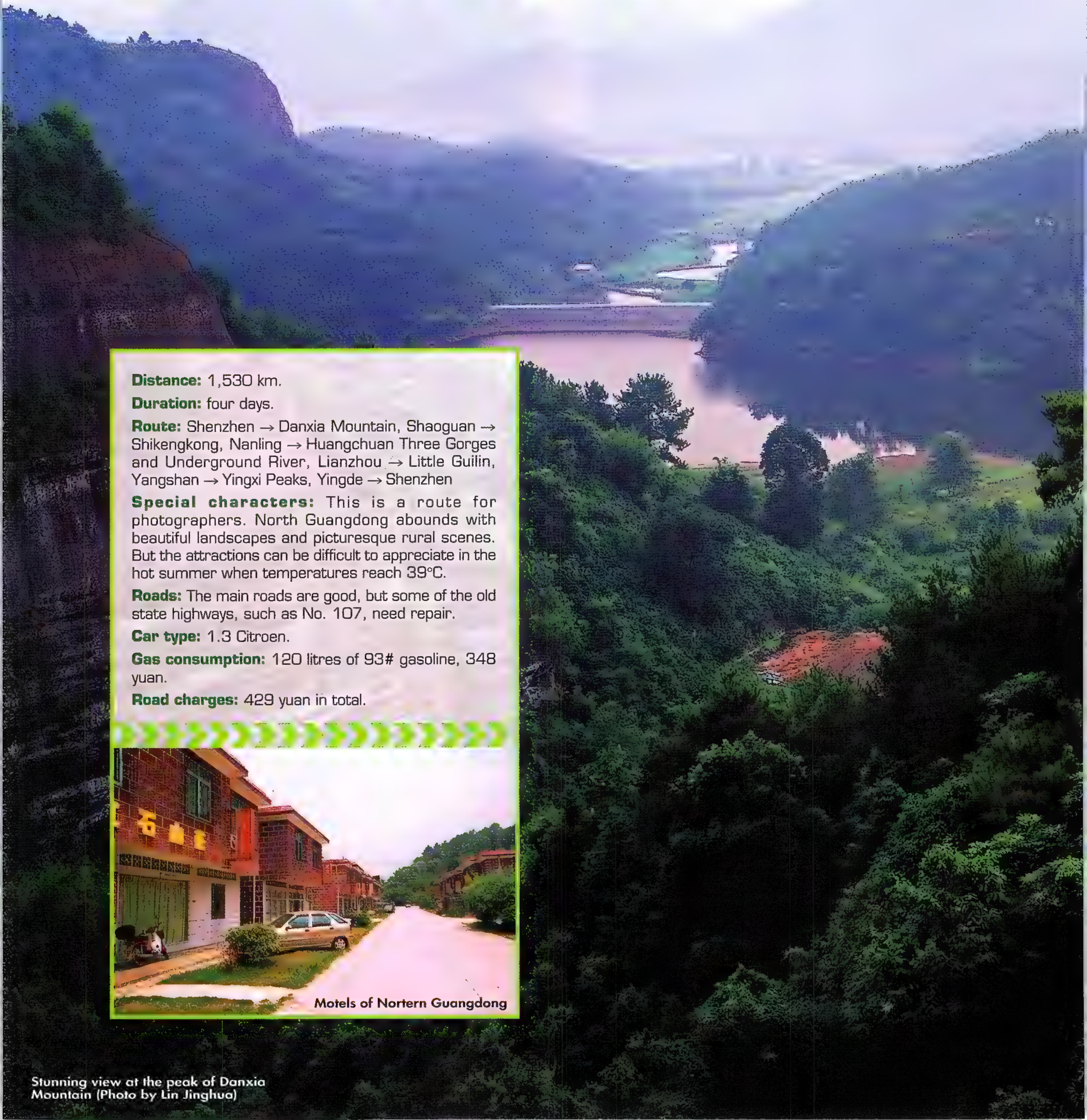
There are many other fortresses in the adjacent area of Liyuan Garden. About a dozen are clustered in Anheli Village, two kilometres from Liyuan.

Driving 20 km from the county seat of Enping, you reach the Jinjiang Hot Spring. Turn left here and, following the road signs to Langdi and Shengtang, you get on Provincial Highway 369, which connects after 15 km with State Highway 325. Further on is the county seat of Kaiping. It's a total distance of 60 km From Kaiping, you reach Tangkou Town and, driving two kilometres after turning left at an intersection, you'll see Liyuan Garden. Two kilometres further, you'll find the fortress group in Anheli Village, but you should remember to turn right on to a concrete road.

There are only a few restaurants on the way from Tangkou to Jiangmen. In Shaxi Town, we saw a restaurant by the Hengsha Bridge. We ordered a fish of one kilogram and had it made into two dishes: stir-fried fish slices and a soup made of the head and bones. Both were delicious. The meal cost us 31 yuan.

Liyuan entry: 25 yuan.

Travel in Northern
GUANGDONG



Stunning view at the peak of Danxia Mountain (Photo by Lin Jinghua)

Distance: 1,530 km.

Duration: four days.

Route: Shenzhen → Danxia Mountain, Shaoguan → Shikengkong, Nanling → Huangchuan Three Gorges and Underground River, Lianzhou → Little Guilin, Yangshan → Yingxi Peaks, Yingde → Shenzhen

Special characters: This is a route for photographers. North Guangdong abounds with beautiful landscapes and picturesque rural scenes. But the attractions can be difficult to appreciate in the hot summer when temperatures reach 39°C.

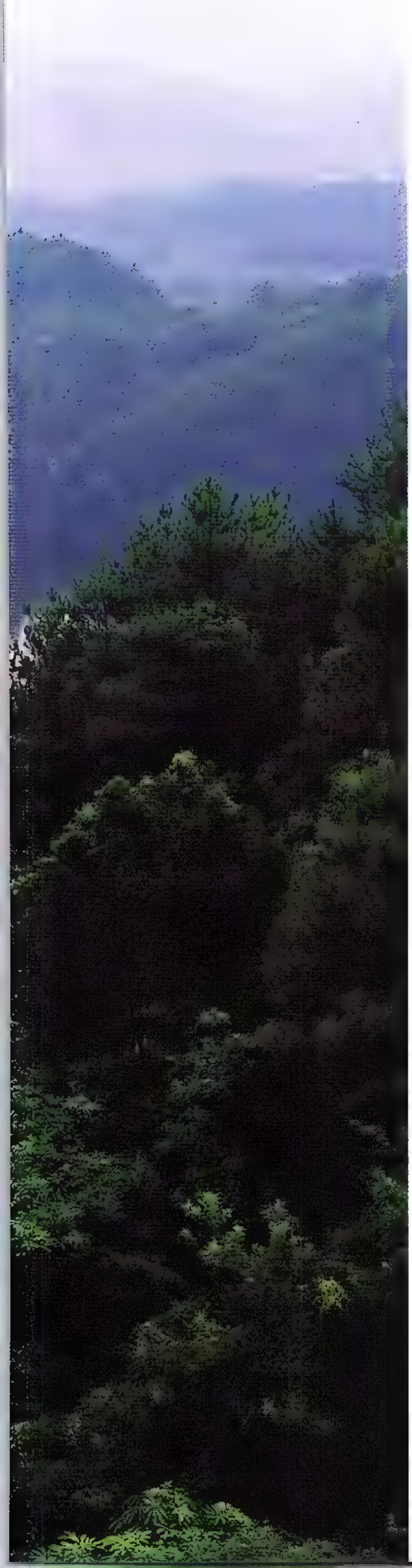
Roads: The main roads are good, but some of the old state highways, such as No. 107, need repair.

Car type: 1.3 Citroen.

Gas consumption: 120 litres of 93# gasoline, 348 yuan.

Road charges: 429 yuan in total.

Motels of Nortern Guangdong



In some sections, you have to climb up Danxia Mountain on all four.

→Stop 1: Danxia Mountain in Renhua

Travel in Northern Guangdong

Danxia (Red Cloud) Mountain is located in Renhua County, Guangdong, which borders Hunan and Jiangxi provinces. The mountain, 45 km from Shaoguan, a major city in northern Guangdong, is a national nature reserve for geology and geography. It is also known as China Red Stone Park. The whole mountain covering an area of 280 km^2 is formed with red sandstone.

Travel Notes: I invited Mr. Lin, a photographer, to go with me to take photos in north Guangdong. We had planned to arrive at Danxia Mountain within four hours, but it became impossible because we had to make three detours on our way.

There were few visitors on Danxia Mountain, probably because of the hot weather.

We checked into the Red Stone Inn, one of the farmer-run hotels in the holiday village, situated at the foot of Yangyuan Hill. After putting down our luggage and resting for half an hour, we began to climb the hill under the scorching sun. We did not want to waste time as we had heard that the top of the hill offered an advantageous position to take photos of sunset. We climbed onto the Tiangang Bridge, sweating all the way. When we sat in a cave, which penetrated the hill from one side to the other, where we felt a cool breeze. We did not climb higher, but waited on the bridge for the sunset.

Thanks to the convenience of the car, we were able to get up at 4 a.m. and drive to the front gate of the Danxia Mountain Scenic Area. From there, carrying our heavy gear, we climbed the mountain. It took us 50 minutes to reach the top in the humidity. We were all soaked, but still we were an hour late for the sunrise. Like other visitors, we sighed and left.

One of the forks on the way downhill leads to Yinyuan Rock. Most visitors to the scenic area come here because it symbolizes the female reproductive organ. Men, mostly, like to take a photo with the rock, but the majority of women prefer to have their photos taken with the Yangyuan Rock that represents manhood.

When you are on the North Second Ring Road of Guangzhou, remember not to exit at the first sign for Shaoguan, which will take you to the old road. Drive on and leave the highway at the exit for Taihe, from where you can get on to the Beijing-Zhuhai Highway. There are two exits for Shaoguan on this road, but you should take the second, "Shaoguan North". In Shaoguan, you should not drive to "Danxia" as the road sign says, but follow the sign to Conghua, and Danxia Mountain is 45 km away. The front gate of the scenic area is right by the road.

Hongshi (Red Stone) Inn: 60 yuan/room.

32 yuan; cruise on the Longxiang Lake at the foot of the hill, 8 yuan.

The scenic area of Yangyuan Hill is magnificent. At dusk, you can find the best spot for taking photos of sunset. Walk westward after entering the area and turn left when you're near the exit. Climbing the hill as the road sign indicates, you'll reach Leigong Rock where you can take wonderful pictures of the sunset. Photographers believe this spot is also ideal for taking landscape pictures in the morning when the distant rocks are lit by the soft rays.

The best place for sunrise pictures is the Guanri (Sun Watching) Pavilion, but it is always crowded with visitors and you cannot even find enough room for your tripod if you're a later arrival. From here, you can see the imposing topography of Danxia Mountain. On a fine day, you can get wonderful horizontal pictures.

As its other name indicates, you see red stones everywhere in the China Red Stone Park. Looking carefully, you can find good photos in the red stones with unusual shapes and grains.

On Danxia Mountain — a rock resembling the genitalia of a woman.

This road to northern Guangdong is winding and rough.

Stop 2: Shikengkong on the Provincial Border

Travel in Northern Guangdong

Shikengkong, 1,902 m above sea level, is the highest peak in Guangdong. It has been developed into the Nanling National Forest Park, but is called Mangshan Peak on the Hunan side. Within the scenic area of 15,000 ha, there are more than 30 peaks of 1,000 m above sea level or higher. A relatively unknown mountain, Shikengkong is even not marked on the map. It draws attention from travellers because of its location on the border of Guangdong and Hunan provinces, linking three counties — Yangshan and Ruyuan in Guangdong, and Yizhang in Hunan.

Travel Notes: We began to climb the mountain from the Ruyuan side. But on the way, we could not find the Beijing-Zhuhai Highway and got onto State Highway 107 before we realized it. The road condition was very bad. Fortunately there was not much traffic, so we swung left and right to pick our way carefully. When we asked about Shikengkong, nobody knew it. Strangely, only when we reached its foot, did we find it was known under another name, Wuzhi (Five Finger) Mountain.

The Nanling National Forest Park is in the boundary of Ruyuan County. Entering the forest area, we drove along a highway winding up the mountain. The first section of the road, in Guangdong Province, is in good condition, but has many sharp turns, giving the driver an exciting challenge. After driving 18 km, when we were in Hunan Province, we found the park's name had changed to Mangshan Forest Park. Meanwhile, Shikengkong, the highest peak in Guangdong, was now called the highest peak in Tiannan (the southernmost). So we were charged again for entry. Soon we were on the most dangerous section of road, which has gradients of 20 to 30 degrees, with continuous sharp turns and uneven surfaces. The oncoming traffic adds to the hazards on the narrow mountain road. If we had stopped on the slope, it might have been difficult to restart the car.

In order to take photos of the sunset the next morning, we decided not to go down the mountain but stay overnight on the top. We set up our tent in an empty room that the guards had offered us. As the two of us had only one sleeping bag, Mr. Lin said he would sleep in the car. If anything happened, he would press the horn.

When it was still dark, I heard cars and found many people had come to watch the sunrise. After waking Lin, we walked to the top. The temperature was very low and I still felt cold with two coats on. Who would have expected such a chill in hot Guangdong?

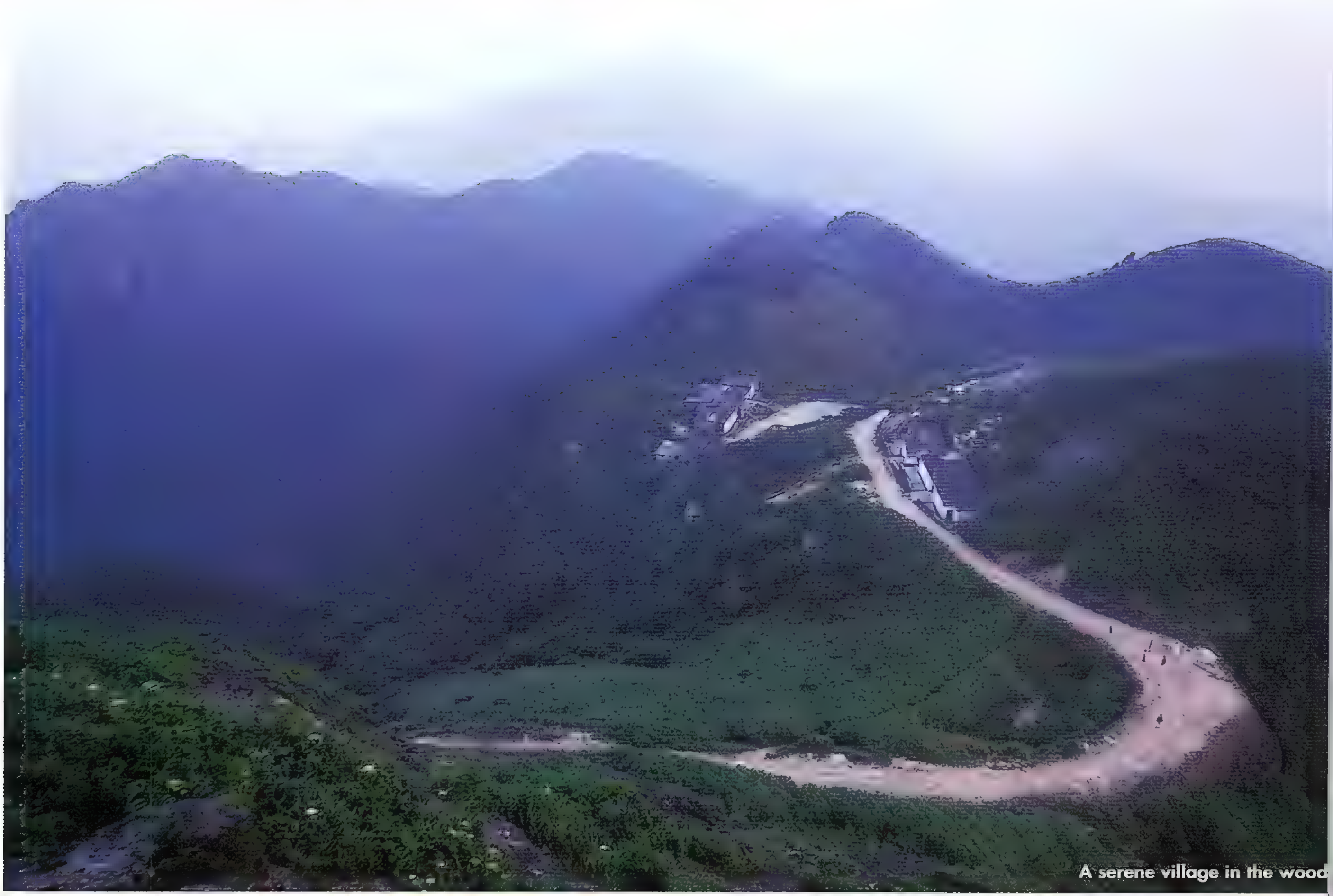
Again, we were late. Lin took no pictures and I took photos of the visitors. Most of them were energetic young people; some of those who had brought digital cameras put their pictures of the blurred sun into their pocket computers right away. The area on the top of the peak is not big, but is crowded with structures. On the Ruyuan side, there is an old blockhouse; in the middle, there is a pavilion belonging to Yangshan County; and on the other side, a huge rock marks the boundary of Yizhang County, Hunan Province.

After leaving the mountaintop, we chose the road to Yangshan, which was in much better condition than that on the Hunan side. Though the slope was steep, it is not difficult to drive as long as you go in low gear. I enjoyed the drive.

- There are many ways to Shikengkong. One is from the northeast of Yangshan, via Lingbei Town and Chengjia Town; another is the Beijing-Zhuhai Highway from Shaoguan, exiting at Nanling Park to turn right, driving 10 km to reach the mountain. The Yangping road is in better condition, but if you miss the entry to the Beijing-Zhuhai Highway, you'll have to take the other road.
- Forestry Bureau Guesthouse in Nanling Forest Park: 100 yuan/room; Holiday Village in Yangshan: 120 yuan/room.
- Admission to Nanling Park: 35 yuan, including admission to scenic spots around Shikengkong. As you have to cross the Hunan border to enter the park, you'll be charged 30 yuan per person at Mangshan Park on the Hunan side. If you go down the mountain via Yangshan Park, you have to pay another 30 yuan for entry. The one scenic area is under three different administrations.
- Though it is the highest peak in Guangdong, Shikengkong is not as magnificent as Danxia Mountain. Other subjects, though, such as the primeval forest on the slopes, waterfalls and villages of the Yao people, are all worth photographing.

You can drive all the way to the peak.

Shikengkong is the highest peak of Guangdong.



A serene village in the wood

A cruise on the Huangchuan Three Gorges passes fantastic stalactites.

High-class holiday inns have been built at the foot of Shikengkong.

Stop3: Lianzhou: Underground River and Huangchuan Three Gorges

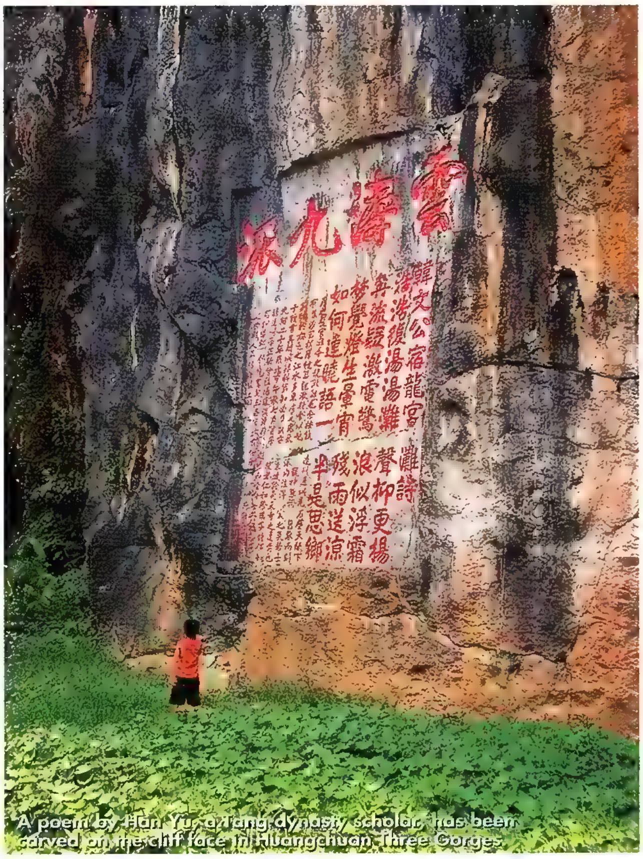
Travel in Northern Guangdong

The Huangchuan Three Gorges extend more than 20 km between the towns of Lianzhou and Longtan in Lianzhou City. Within the group are Longquan (Dragon Spring) Gorge, Lengjia Gorge and Yangtiao (Goat Jumping) Gorge. On the riverside there used to be the Longgong (Dragon Palace) Temple, where Han Yu (768-824 A.D.), a Tang Dynasty scholar, wrote his famous lines under the title "Overnight on the Dragon Palace Beach". The temple has long disappeared, but Han's writing can be seen carved on the cliff.

The Underground River runs 25 km north of Lianzhou. It is a natural limestone cave divided into three levels, with water running north to south on the lowest level. The 1,400-m-long river goes through three gorges, and on its banks are stalactites in various shapes, such as flowers, pillars and curtains.

Travel Notes: We drove down Shikengkong Peak and had breakfast in Chengjia Town at the foot. The meal cost only six yuan. At the fork in the road at Lingbei Town, we turned left and after hesitating, we chose to go to Lianzhou.

I knew little about Lianzhou before coming here. As soon as we were in town, we saw a huge board giving road directions: Huangchuan Three Gorges were on one side, and the Underground River was on the other. We went to Huangchuan Three Gorges first. Driving three kilometers, we reached the Longchuan Shipyard, where a dam stood on the Lianhe River. We boarded a tourist boat to visit the Three Gorges. It was hot and because of the shallow draught, the boat had to sail carefully so as not to hit the riverbed. The landscapes along the river are picturesque, and the cruise took more than two hours.



A poem by Han Yu, a Tang dynasty scholar, has been carved on the cliff face in Huangchuan Three Gorges.

We then visited the Underground River. The huge cave is indeed extraordinary. The river running on the lowest level winds quietly through stalactites of fantastic shapes. There was a sense of mystery cruising on the river. Compared with other limestone caves I have visited, Lianzhou is not as famous, but its scenery is highly unusual. Unfortunately, the lights in the cave are not bright enough to do justice to the attractions.

- The section from Lianzhou to Yangshan of State Highway 107 is very bad. Massive overloaded trucks have seriously damaged the road surface. Even when you drive at a modest speed, you have to be careful of the potholes.
- Huangchuan Three Gorges cruise 25 yuan; Underground River 50 yuan.
- Not many people know about the Huangchuan Three Gorges. Even Mr. Lin, who had visited many places, had never heard of it. He took some good pictures of the natural patterns on the cliffs. It is not easy to take pictures of the Underground River. As the lights are weak, you have to be very patient. Apart from using a slow shutter speed, you also need a flash to get a dynamic and tranquil picture.

Stop4: Yangshan: Little Guilin of Yushui

Travel in Northern Guangdong

This scenic area lies 12 km southeast of Yangshan county seat, extending from the town of Shuikou to Qinglian. Here the Lianjiang River turns 90 degrees, and on its banks are undulating peaks and green rural scenes. When Guan Shanyue, a famous contemporary painter, visited here, he called it "Little Guilin" after the scenic area of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Its real name is Yushui Scenic Area.

Travel Notes: The road to the seat of Yangshan County was very bumpy. We checked into the county government guesthouse, guessing it was the best in town. We set off early the next day, and soon arrived in Shuikou, a small town. After passing a bridge, we entered the Suikou Scenic Area, where the scenery became increasingly beautiful. Unfolding in front of us were charming pictures of peaks, fields and bamboo groves. Mr. Lin is a Guangdong native. Though he had travelled much, he had never expected to find such charming landscapes in his home province, and it is only half a day's drive from Shenzhen, where he lives.

- Turn left from the government guesthouse and you reach Shuikou Town after driving about 12 kilometres. Turn right and you'll enter the Yushui Scenic Area.
- Yangshan County Government Guesthouse: 200 yuan/room.
- In terms of landscapes, there are many similarities between Yushui and Guilin, in Guangxi. But since Yushui is less well-known, it has reserved its original rural liveliness. The local people are friendly and very cooperative when you take photos of them.

It's essential to be cautious and pay attention to road sign when driving on curvy, mountainous road.

Stop 5: Yingxi Peaks in Yingde

Travel in Northern Guangdong

The Yingxi Peaks formed 200 million years ago are located between the towns of Jiulong, Mingjing and Yanbei in the southwest of Yingde City. More than 1,000 limestone peaks line about 10 km, with big and small streams winding through them.

Travel Notes:

The Yingxi Peaks cover a large area. We began to see the picturesque landscapes in Dawan; these rural scenes became more and more enjoyable. From Shuikou of Yangshan to Dawan of Yingde, we were driving on the best road of the whole journey, making it a pleasure. As there were few vehicles, I was happy to drive on the smooth, winding road.

Outside the county seat of Yingde, the entrance to the highway to Qingyuan was closed because of maintenance work. We made a detour on to the Beijing-Zhuhai Highway to drive north. After we missed an exit, we got a chance to turn south only when we were almost in Shaoguan. We finally found the right road leading to Guangzhou. Road signs remain a headache when travelling in Guangdong.

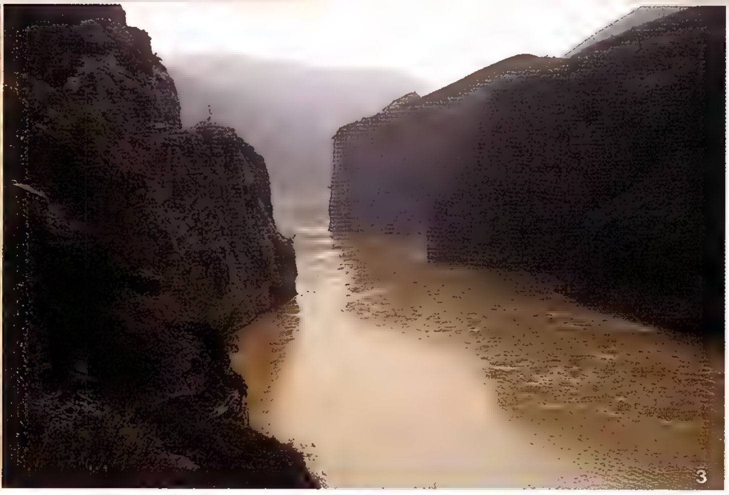
- The Yingxi Peaks are 62 km from Yingde. There are two choices from Yingde to Guangzhou: head towards Qingyuan and then get on to the Beijing-Zhuhai Highway; or go northward for 26 km and then turn right on to the Beijing-Zhuhai Highway.
- To photograph the peaks, you should allow yourself plenty of time. The scenes in the morning and evening are more spectacular.

No matter where you go, you will find beautiful scenery, fun and adventure.

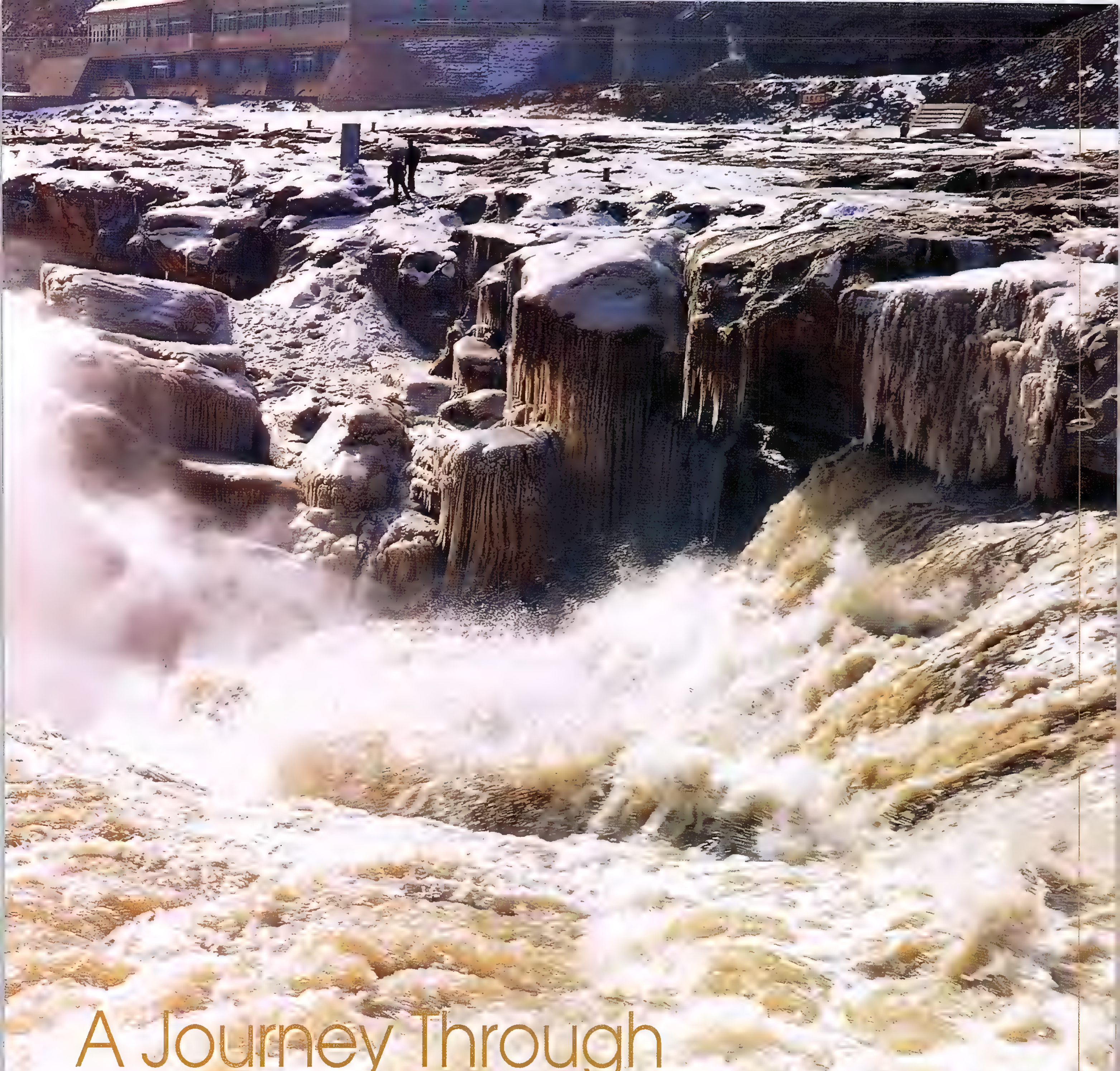
The Yingxi Peaks features picturesque rural scenes. (Photo by Lin Jinghua)

1

2



3



A Journey Through The Time — The Qin-Jin Yellow River Canyon

Photos and Article by Hu Wugong

In Tuoketuo, Inner Mongolia, the Yellow River makes an abrupt turn to the south. After hundreds and thousands of years of scouring, the river has cut a deep canyon in the vast loess plateau, 720 km long. During the Warring States period (475-221 B.C.), the west side was the State of Qin(Now Shaanxi), and the east, the State of Jin(Now Shanxi). That's why the canyon is called the Qin-Jin Canyon.

1. **The spectacular Hukou Waterfalls on the Yellow River between Shanxi and Shaanxi. (Photo by Huang Songhui)**
2. **The simple but merry life of the people on Loess Plateau.**
3. **The narrowest place in the Yellow River canyon is only eight meters wide.**

1

Exploring the area had long been a dream of mine, only realized last year. We started driving from Xi'an, and after Weinan, Dali, Heyang, a 230 km drive, we arrived in Hancheng, a historic and cultural place we had longed to visit. An ancient city, on the south of the canyon, by the west bank of the Yellow River, Hancheng was the hometown of Sima Qian, a Western-Han historian and man of letters.

Hancheng — Where History Lives

In the evening, we took a walk along the ancient lanes in Hancheng. We saw history everywhere. All the buildings were tall, the yards deep, bricks and tiles gray. Almost every house had stone lions at the doorway, and brushed wood boards above the lintel. From a distance, these boards resembled a fine exhibition of calligraphy. You could even smell the ancient culture.

Hancheng has over two hundred ancient castles. The best preserved is Dangjia Village on a perilous hill surrounded by other hills on three sides. The only access was a secret path, paved with gray bricks and flagstones, leading to the main street. On top of the gate tower, about 10 m high, a fort was built, fortified by huge rocks on all sides. In times of strife, the castle gate would be securely shut to ensure maximum safety. Courtyards inside the castle were built with gray bricks and tiles. Hancheng was a significant place in ancient history. The states of Qin, Jin and Wei had vied for the control of it. It was also economically strategic. Merchants from all over the country came to trade. Wars and trade boosted the local economy and culture tremendously.

Ancient buildings in Dangjia Village symbolized the economy and culture. Having withstood hundreds of years of weathering, it has become a tourist site. Ironically, even the locals admitted that they had never expected the few old houses from their ancestors could make them rich.

Hukou Waterfalls — A Symbol of Momentum

Following the east highway northward, after Jishan and Xinjiang, we came to Jixian County, in Shanxi, across the river from Yichuan, in Shaanxi. The world famous Hukou Waterfalls were on the Yellow River here, between the ancient states of Qin and Jin. After millennia of thunderous erosion, the river has cut a gully between the 150-m-high cliffs. The river gully was 300 m wide at the bottom, but only 20 m wide at the top. Wide streams were forced into this narrow gully. Angry streams tumbled down to smash, then bounce up from the bottom with a deafening roar. Mist enveloped everything. After the water dried on our clothes, it left yellow soil spots.

The falls encapsulate the force of the river. The unyielding waves tumbling like dark clouds left us in awe of nature. Every year, the river washes away 1.6 billion tons of sand, and continues its journey to the sea. The Dongying Plain, in Shandong, near where the river met the sea, is a masterwork by the river. With the awesome momentum, the river has sculpted the Qin-Jin Canyon and huge waterfalls.

Qikou — An Ancient port

Crossing Wubao Bridge, we found ourselves in Linxian County, Shanxi. Following the river we drove north, and after a three-hour drive along mountain roads, we were in the ancient port Qikou. This place got its name from the second most dangerous section of the river. This place is full of shoals, eerie crags and unexpected whirlpools, completely unnavigable. Merchants used to stop in Qikou. Years later, this place had

developed into a busy commercial distribution centre, very prosperous during the eighteen century.

Qikou was a small town, a 2.5-km-long street winding beside the river and the contour of the mountain. Shops, made from caves with brick or stone frontages, or two-story brick and wood buildings, flanked the street. Every building was built defensively, with tall, strong gates and fortified walls to enclose separate cave rooms inside. Some houses had fortifications and battlements. A private bank house even had a barbed wire entanglement, with bronze bells hanging on it. This construction was very well designed and built, exhibiting Ming and Qing (1368-1911 A.D.) building styles and the Shanxi people's meticulous personality. In ancient times, Miss Wang (our tour guide) told us, Qikou had been an important transportation port in north Shanxi. Furs, medicinal herbs, salt and soda from Shaanxi, Gansu and Ningxia, and cloth, silk and pottery from north China and Shanxi, came here to be distributed to the east and west. During the busiest years, there were over three hundred shops, and more than a hundred cargo vessels docked daily, serviced by over a thousand porters. As one of

1. Farmers in Chuankou Town, Wubao, harvest sweet potatoes.
2. Snow on the rooftops in Dangjia Village, Hancheng.
3. Cave houses on the Loess Plateau. (Photo by Huang Songhui)
4. The Yellow River in early winter.

the four well-known towns in north Shanxi, Qikou was described (by locals) as "a small city, but abundant with products, the main town along the winding Yellow River".

However, due to the construction of the railway, river navigation declined during the 1940s. After the bloody occupation by the Japanese, the importance of Qikou declined.

The current population of Qikou is about thirty thousand, mostly descendants of merchants. Because of its out-of-the-way location, it had preserved old Ming and Qing construction styles and ancient customs. In recent years, many artists, photographers and tourists have come to visit.

Qikou has many family hotels. Tourists, besides taking a boat trip on the river and other activities, are able to taste the local food and sleep on earthen beds.

Incense Burner Temple and White Cloud Mount

After driving up a mountain along a winding road, we saw a conspicuous sign—Jiaxian County. Along the Qin-Jin Canyon, there were two counties on mountains, Wubao and Jiaxian. Three counties were located beside the river shoals, Hequ, Baode and Fugu. Jiaxian has two mountains, one for the people's homes, the other for gods. The two mountains were five kilometers apart, but connected by the Yellow River. The mountain for people was called Jiaxian, the mountain for gods, Baiyun Temple.

Jiaxian has many date trees. It was October, and everywhere on mountain slopes, big red dates hung on trees. The spectacular Yellow River was floating like a silk ribbon. By the east city gate, on the riverbank, stood a small hill. On the hill was a small temple, Xianglu (Incense Burner) Temple. A lonely stone pillar, about 20 m high, was towering to the south. Atop the pillar was built a peculiar small temple called Bodhisattva tower. These buildings, connected by stone

2

bridges, proudly stood by the Yellow River, looking perilous and spectacular.

Baiyun (White Cloud) Temple, about five kilometers away, is also by the Yellow River. It is the largest Taoist centre in China's northwest, built around 1600s. Though Baiyun Mount was a Taoist place, it also accommodated Confucianism and Buddhism. This tolerant place had housed gods of different religions. Shrines for Taoist, Buddhist and local gods were many, over three hundred in all.

Life in An Ancient Castle

Fugu in Shaanxi and Baode in Shanxi are twin cities on the canyon, separated by the Yellow River but connected by a spanning bridge. We crossed the bridge, and continued along the asphalt highway between Baode to Hequ, between mountains and ravines on the Loess Plateau. On the way, we saw many ancient castles.

These places along the Yellow River were border areas in ancient times. Han and Non-Han armies built many castles and fortresses. While serving a military purpose, these constructions were also the beginnings of towns. Eight kilometers east of Hequ, we saw an earthen castle on the east bank of the Yellow River. Its side was a kilometer long. I went up the hill and into the castle. I found the castle was square, and by its walls were endless golden crops and sunflowers. Due to the scarce rainfall, crops are few and far between. A young woman was harvesting sunflowers. Her last name was Na, she told us. Obviously it was a Manchu surname. The castle was called "Ring Castle", she said, and people living there had three surnames: Lu, Guo and Na. Their ancestors, several generations back, had moved in from other places. The castle had been built during the 1800s, originally as a place to station armies. Though not big, the castle had everything it needed. More than a hundred years of history had weathered away wooden parts of the city walls, and the gates were long gone. Only rammed earthen walls and stands survived. The woman's house was inside the castle, in a corner by a city wall, which was also her house wall. She had several one-storey rooms symmetrically built to the left and right, where she lived with her family of six. They farmed a two-third hectare of dry fields. We climbed up the earthen city walls and looked around. Cooking smoke was curling up from about thirty earthen houses. Their originally exquisite wooden window panels and weathered doorplates still had old and incomplete paper-cuts and couplets from years before. An antenna was on the only brick building inside the castle was the only sign of modernity.

It was late afternoon. The setting sun rouged the castle. The hospitable young woman brought us golden "sour rice", a popular food in this area. This sour rice, it was said, originated during wars in the past. People fled from homes to avoid war. Several days later, after they returned, they saw their wet millet was already swollen. How could they ditch it, when food was scarce? They steamed it before they took it. To their surprise, the sour rice had a unique taste of yoghurt. It was delicious with pickled vegetables. Sour rice became a favorite with the local farmers.

The Yellow River Meets the Great Wall

In the past, Hequ was not only a border city, but also a battlefield. The Great Wall and the Yellow River, two symbols of the Chinese nation, intersect here. Hequ had 140 km of the Great Wall built along

1. **A coal miner in Shanxi**
2. **Wells drilled by the Yellow River provide water for daily use.**
3. **A catholic church by the Yellow River, Jiaxian County**
4. **Old beacon tower on the Great Wall**
5. **Processed dates are shipped out for sale.**

the Yellow River. In some parts, 100-m-high embankments were part of the Great Wall, on which beacon towers were built. A dozen or more openings were made for trade and military use. They were left open in peace, for people to get in and out, but they were securely shut during a war.

We left the county town to continue our trip northward. After 10 km, we saw a lonely islet in the Yellow River. We learnt this was the famous Niangniang shoal. The islet was the only shoal on this section of the Yellow River that was habitable. Torrential streams rushed down from Longkou a couple of kilometers away, splitting into two to pass the oasis. This shoal was like a piece of jade being played with in the mouth of a dragon. A boat took us on to the islet, where we saw a two-storey tower amid a poplar forest. It was in traditional Chinese style, with floating eaves supported by dou gong (wood brackets), luxuriously glazed tiles and painted beams. People told us of the local history. Inside the Niangniang Temple, the Empress Bo, wife of Liu Bang, the first emperor of Han, was enshrined. She and Prince Liu Heng had been framed by the Empress Lu, and forced into an exile by Liu Bang. After much hardship, escorted by the famous general Li Guang, the mother and son came here and made their home. All of a dozen or more families on the islet today have Li as their surnames and claimed to be the descendents of Li Guang.

No Man's Land

Zou Xi Kou (A trip to Xikou) is a unique act by local people. They sing a song about the trip to Xikou. Xikou was a geographic term, also a historic one. To many people, Xikou was north of the Great Wall, in northwest Shanxi, north Shaanxi and east Gansu. The family of Aisin Gioro, the ruler of the Qing Dynasty, made a strip of land north of the Great Wall forbidden. It was about 25 km wide and 1,000 km long. It was meant to stop contacts between Mongolians and Han people, to sever relations between an agricultural civilization and a nomadic culture. People in these border areas, compelled by basic survival, had no choice but to disregard this order. They went to Xikou whenever a natural disaster or a war happened. Another popular folksong had the following lines, "Hequ and Baode had poor harvests year in and year out. Women find wild herbs for food, men left to find a living in Xikou." "Zou Xi Kou" became a heart-breaking love song among local farmers for several hundred years.

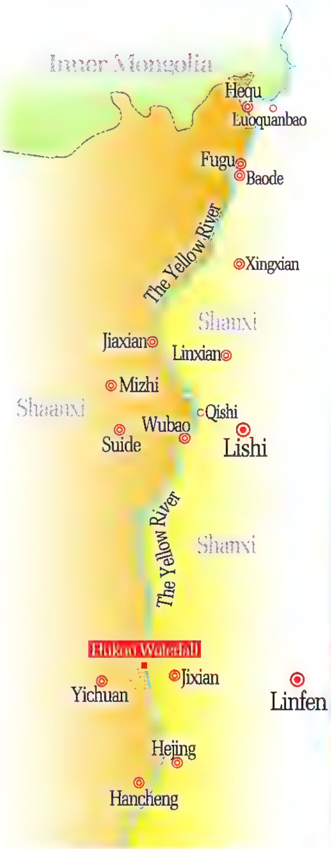
Translated by Li Guoqing

3

4

1. **Well-known boatman Li Guixiong.**
2. **The vast Loess Plateau has nurtured the Chinese nation. (Photo by Huang Songhui)**
3. **West city gate of Hequ county town.**
4. **Household in Niangniang Islet.**
5. **Ancient opera stage and rooster sculpture built by the Yellow River in Hequ.**

Travel Tips



To Hancheng: about 230 km from Xi'an. The Yellow River flows from northwest to southeast in east Hancheng, about 74 km long in this place. About 10 km to the south of the city is the tomb of Sima Qian, and 20 km to the north is the ancient Dangjia Village. Bus services are available.

To Yichuan: about 200 km from Xi'an, about 48 km from Yichuan to Hukou Waterfalls. Take a bus to Yichuan, then get a transfer to Hukou.

To Wubao: State Highway 210 leads from Yichuan to Wubao, a 200-km trip. Bus services are also available.
To other places: Bus services are available from Yichuan northward, to Yulin, Shenmu, Fugu, then cross the Yellow River to Baode and Hequ. Hotels on the way cost 40-50 yuan per bed.

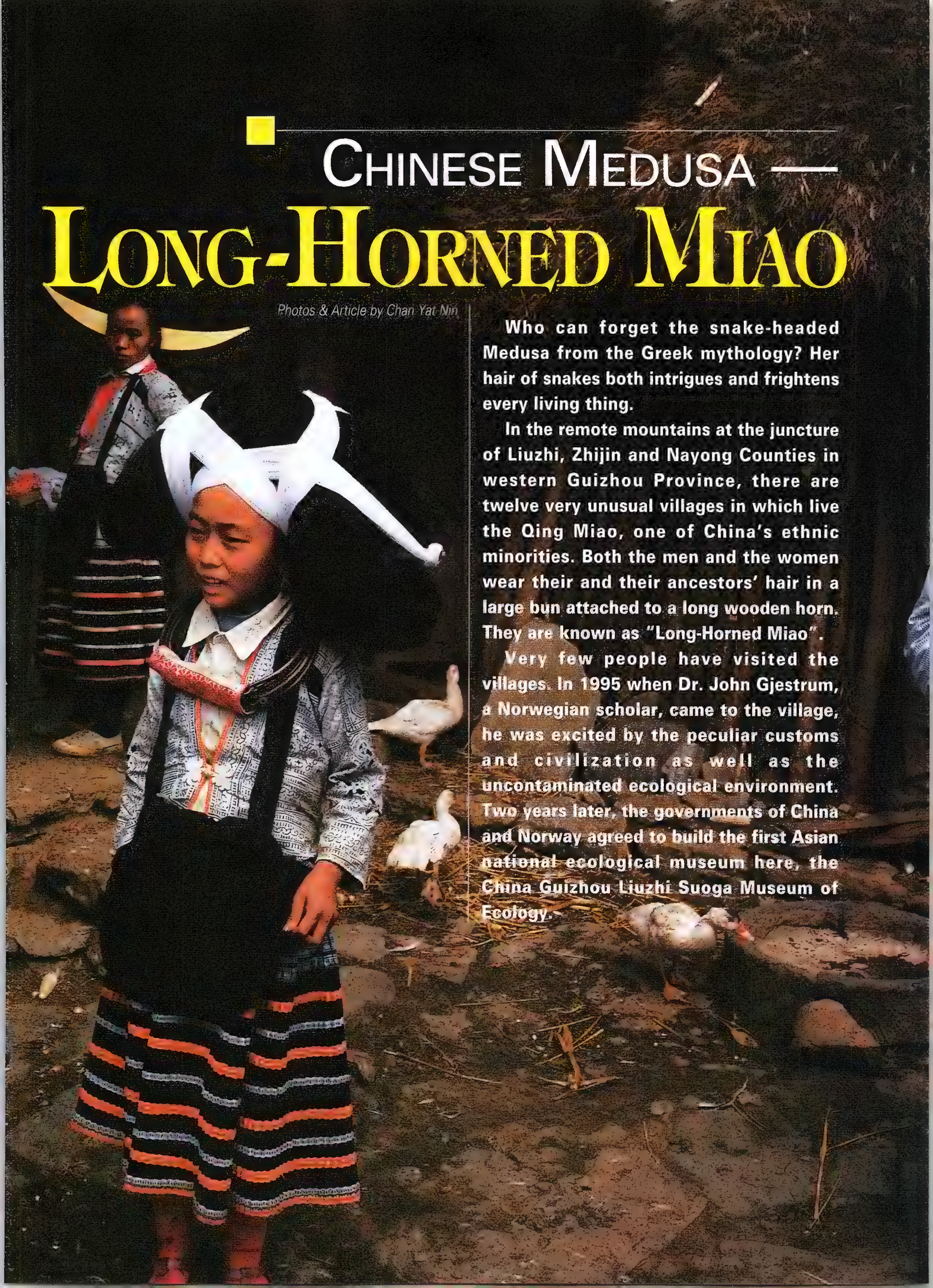
Weather: light overcoats are needed if travelling in October. Temperatures vary a lot in the morning and in the evening. It is very cold in winter. The lowest temperature could be 15-20 °C below zero.

5

CHINESE MEDUSA —

LONG-HORNED MIAO

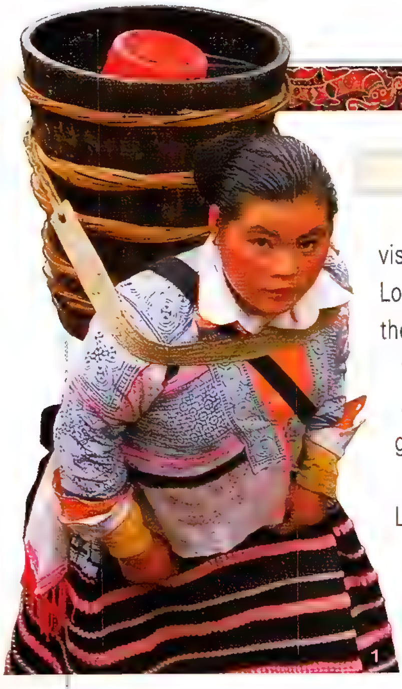
Photos & Article by Chan Yat Nin



Who can forget the snake-headed Medusa from the Greek mythology? Her hair of snakes both intrigues and frightens every living thing.

In the remote mountains at the juncture of Liuzhi, Zhijin and Nayong Counties in western Guizhou Province, there are twelve very unusual villages in which live the Qing Miao, one of China's ethnic minorities. Both the men and the women wear their and their ancestors' hair in a large bun attached to a long wooden horn. They are known as "Long-Horned Miao".

Very few people have visited the villages. In 1995 when Dr. John Gjestrum, a Norwegian scholar, came to the village, he was excited by the peculiar customs and civilization as well as the uncontaminated ecological environment. Two years later, the governments of China and Norway agreed to build the first Asian national ecological museum here, the China Guizhou Liuzhi Suoga Museum of Ecology.



1

In Time for a Wedding

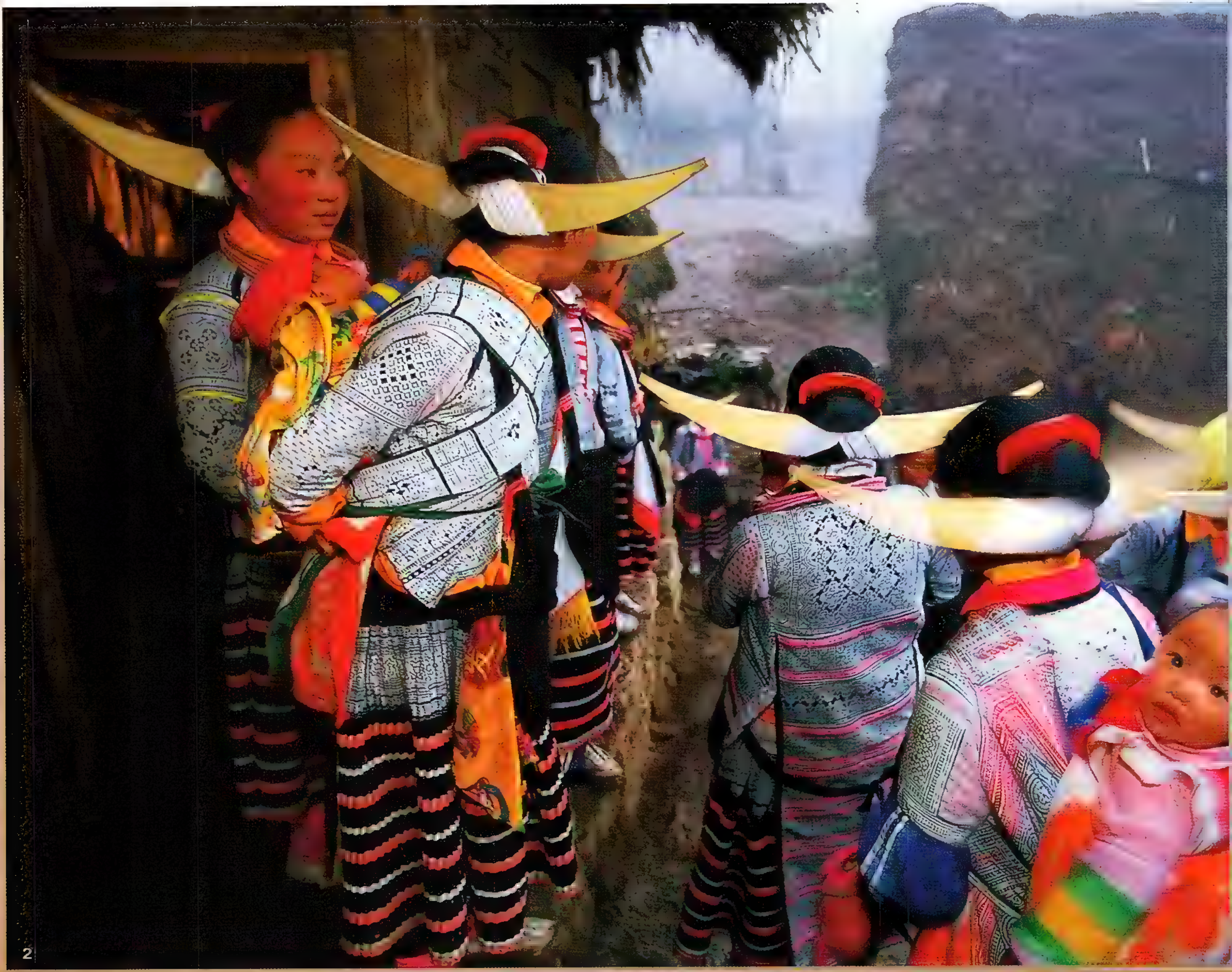
I came across a golden opportunity to visit the place just at the time when the Long-Horned Miao were going to celebrate their Tiaohuapo Festival. What is more, I went with Dr. Zhang Xiaosong, a female anthropologist, who knew the ethnic group intimately.

After our car passed Suoga Township in Liuzhi County, it continued to climb a steep and rugged mountain road. Slowly we drove through the dense mist and approached Longga Village seven kilometers from the township square. Longga is a large village of the Long-Horned Miao.

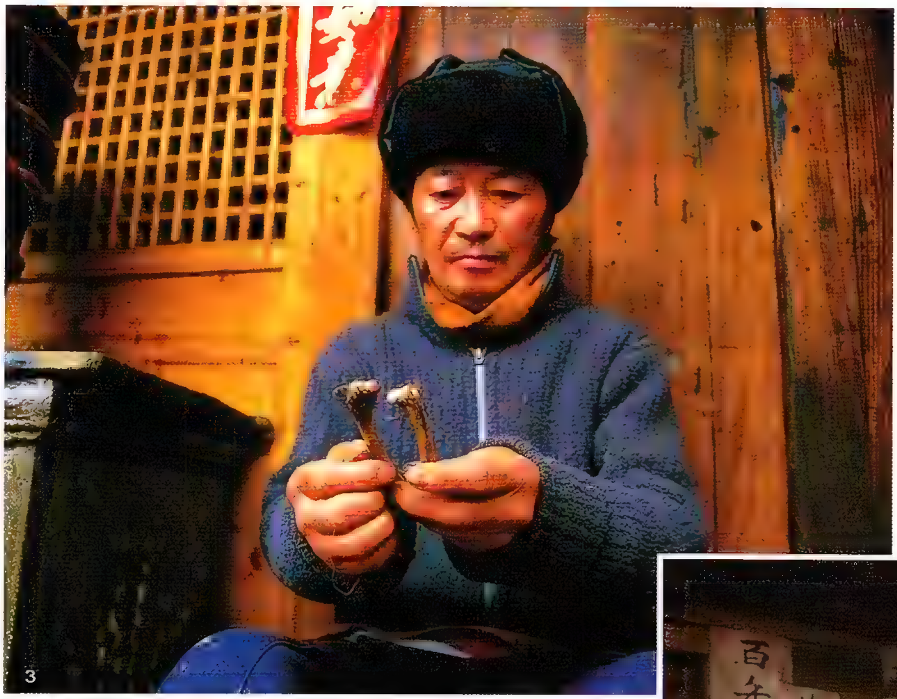
Finally we arrived at the mountain village 1,800 m above sea level. Dense mist enshrouded the village, mantling the rows of thatched houses built on the slope of the mountain. With different shades, thick in the foreground and pale in the background, the place looked like a Chinese ink and wash drawing. In the dense mist the white wooden horns flickering on the heads of the women were most eye-catching when they swayed towards us.

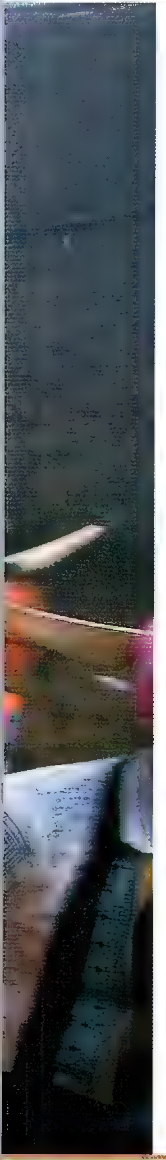
When the villagers came nearer and saw Dr. Zhang, there was a great deal of commotion as in any reunion of old friends. The anthropologist had stayed in this area for several months, doing her research. All the way there she told me her previous interesting experiences.

The garments of the women were all very similar. They wore batik blouses with blue flowers dyed on white and a black pleated skirt embedded with red and white embroidered ribbons. On the back a long piece of cross-stitch work draped down to the brim of the skirt. On the front there was a blue woolen pinafore. They had nothing shiny on them. The only "glittering thing" was the large wooden horn on the head. Their clothing were more simple and plain than their sister group in the southeast of the province, who decorated themselves all over with silver ornaments. Nevertheless, their attire was exceptionally



2





unique. When they were fully dressed up, they had a large hair bun weighing several kilograms on their heads. To hold the weight, they needed to support their waists with both hands. Before moving forwards, they first moved the hips, with the feet following, while shaking the hands at the same time. With slow steps and swaying waists, making their walk very attractive. Viewed from a distance, their movements of the body and the gestures were as graceful as those of the ancient noble ladies from the imperial palace.

The Day-and-Night Wedding Feast

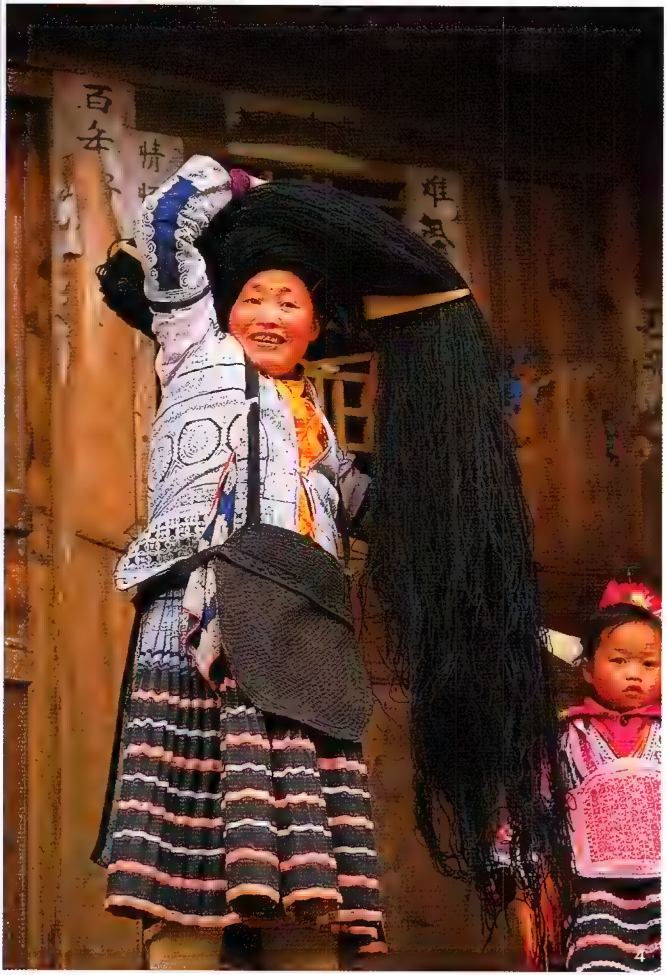
We arrived as two families were holding wedding ceremonies, and we immediately postponed our plan to settle.

The thatched houses of the wedding families were packed inside and out. The bride as well as the bridesmaids and their companions were splendidly dressed. Their hair buns, wet with dew, were huge, a foot wider than the shoulders. They looked a bit tired, standing by the door welcoming and sending off the guests. I found the feast was going on and several groups of guests had already been served.

Locally known as the day-and-night wedding dinner, the feast is for all the relatives and friends within and without the village. The small hall can hold only four square tables. Guests have to withdraw immediately when they finish eating, leaving seats for the newcomers. It is not an elaborate meal; only a few dishes are served. However, guests come and go hectically like a marketplace, and the blissful atmosphere is contagious.

Women play the crucial part in the service. Rice pails in hand, they keep filling the guests' bowls. They pay great attention to keeping the wooden horns away from pricking the guests while nimbly threading through the tables. Naturally they are the last to eat.

Dr. Zhang said youngsters of the Long-Horned Miao begin to court at the age of 12 or 13. The Tiaohuapo Festival is the best occasion for courting. Throughout the month, young people can eat, stay, have fun and court freely in the twelve villages in turn.



Front Page: The women of "Long-Horned Miao" wear their and their ancestors' hair in a large bun attached to a long wooden horn. The bigger the hair, the prettier. (by Li Guiyun)

1. **Longga has a water shortage. Women have to carry water from the well at the foot of the village.**
2. **Women wear the white wooden horns daily, but they would put their hair in a large bun during special occasions.**
3. **Longga's fortuneteller uses only simple tools such as chicken bone.**
4. **Yang is greatly respected, for her son is the first college student of the village.**

1

However, strict rules are set for marriage. They must have the approval of their parents and the seniors in the village. It is common to see a boy declaring his affections at the girl's home, where he sits by the stove, singing love songs. The mother always chaperones her daughter. Love songs can be sung in an unrestrained way, but no presumptuous moves are allowed.

On the Tiaohuapo Festival things are different. Girls take the lead. If a certain boy were to their liking, two or three girls in a group would seize him and drag him to their house. If the boy returns the affection, he returns later with a small gift, like a packet of washing powder, to the girl.

Singing Through the Night

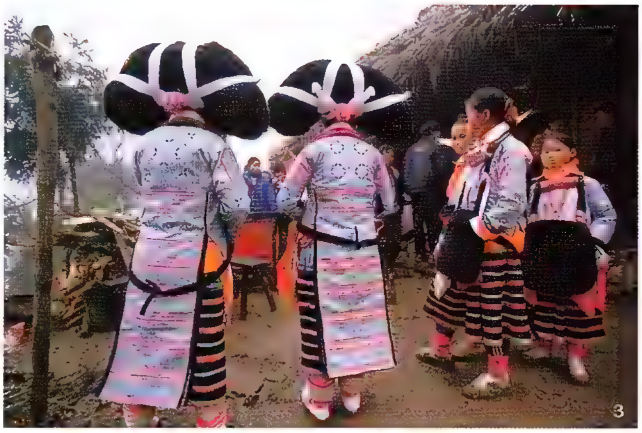
As there was no electricity in the mountain area in the past, local people are accustomed to have supper and go to bed early at night. When we left the wedding family and came to Delong's house, the host was already in bed.

Delong is one of the heroes of the stories Zhang Xiaosong told me. Zhang treats him as her brother while the family takes her as their benefactor.

Delong, in his 20s, is the eldest child of his family. His parents died when he was 13. If not for his maternal uncle who married his daughter to him, he would have been too poor to get a spouse. Now they have three children. He has brought up his two younger brothers and helped them get married. The three brothers and their families live together under the same roof.

Like other young people in the village, Delong usually works in a small coal mine. With the pay he buys fertilizer and seed potatoes. Once the boss of the mine absconded without paying his workers. Helpless, the whole family was immediately thrown into a state of anxiety.

2

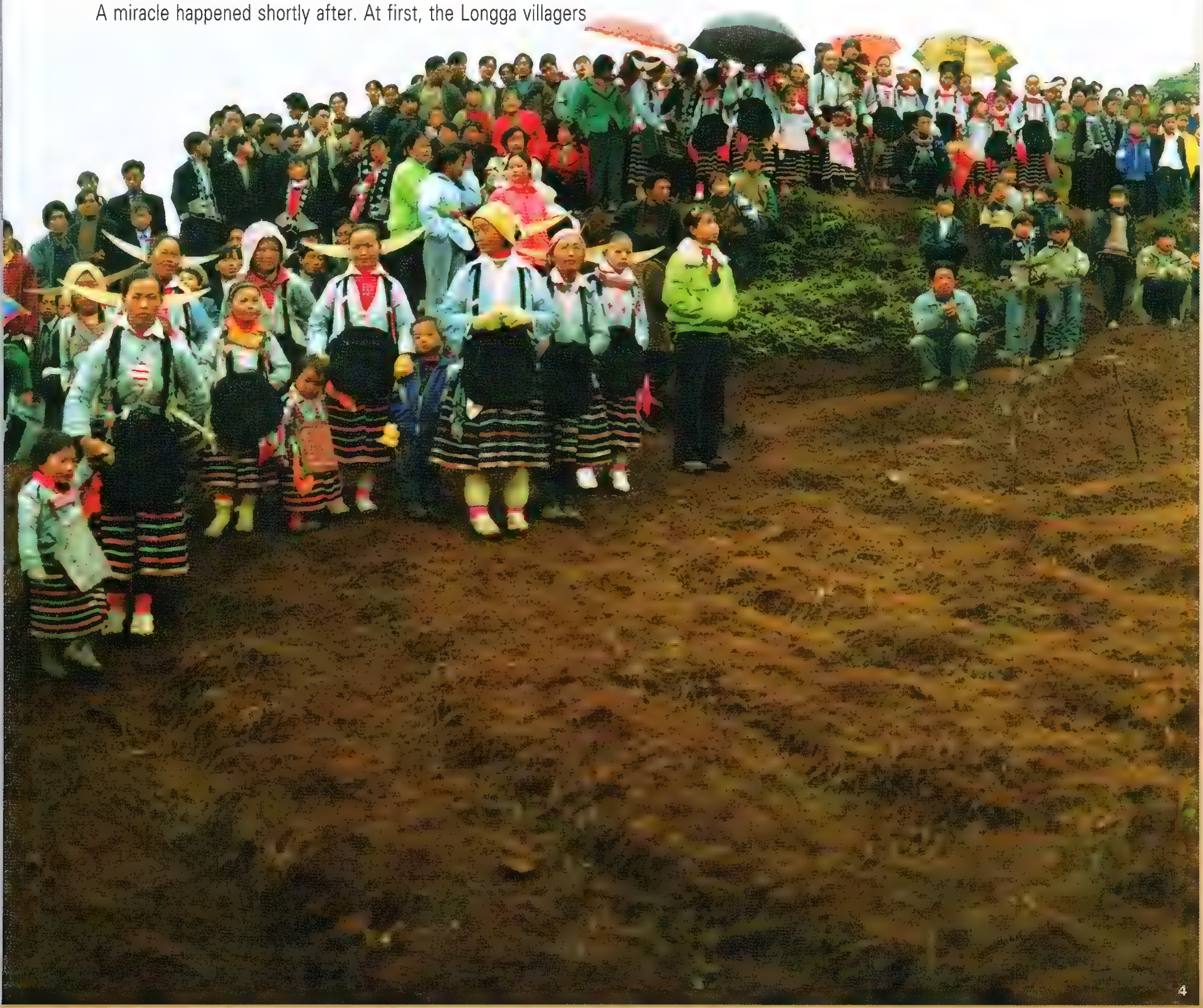


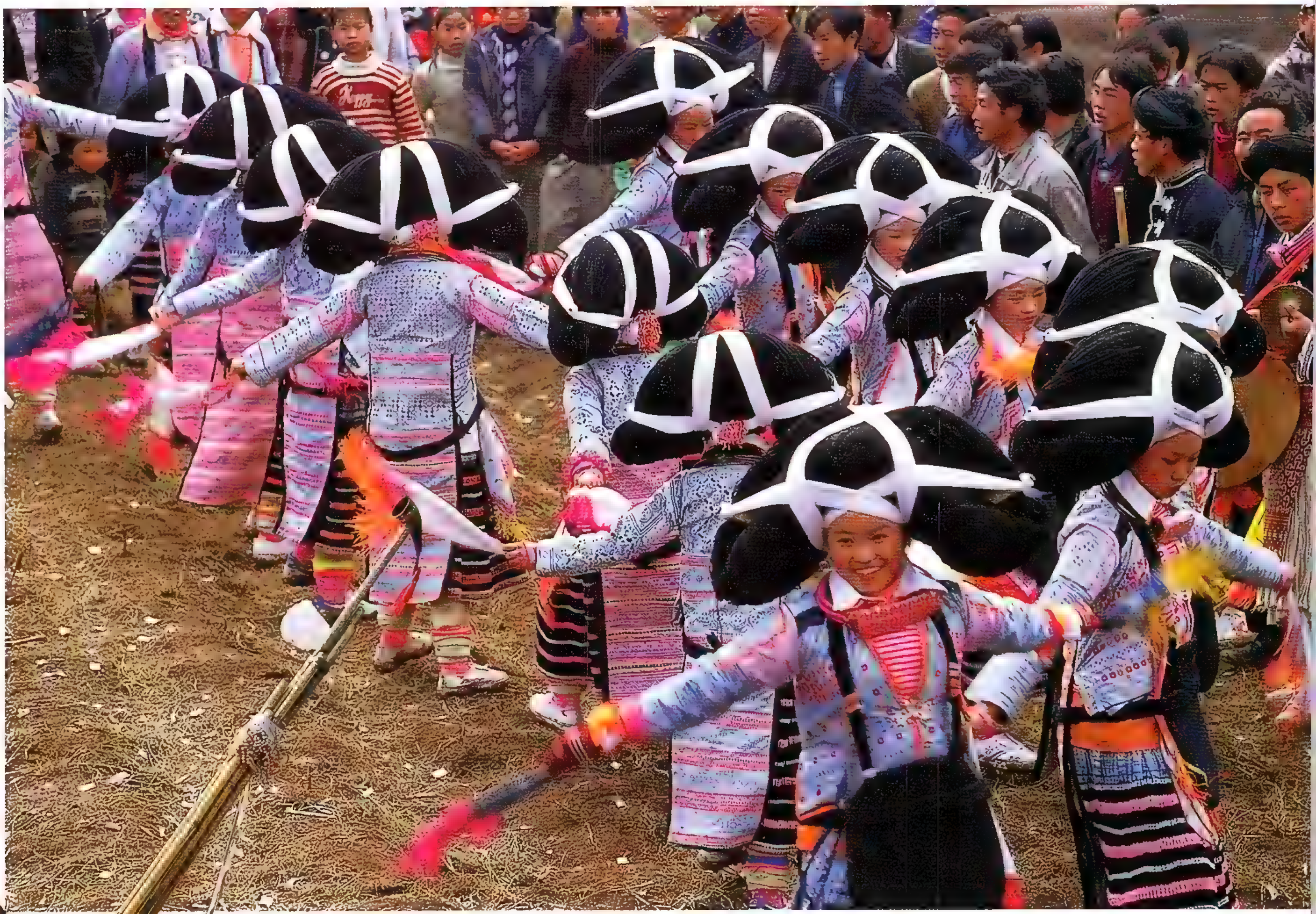
The local people usually have potatoes as their staple food for the first half of the year and corn for the second half. If they miss the right time for planting they face famine. Fortunately Zhang Xiaosong came to his aid, providing him with fertilizer and seed potatoes. The whole family of Delong beamed with joy.

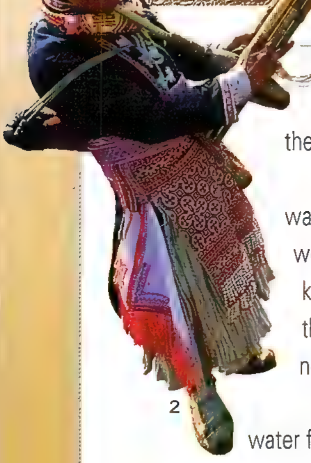
A miracle happened shortly after. At first, the Longga villagers stayed at a respectable distance from the "big professor" from the provincial capital. The anthropologist could hardly carry on her research in the village. To her surprise, that evening all the women came and sang outside her room. Greatly moved, Zhang was at a loss. She had tried to ask them to sing or to have photos taken, but each time they put up their hands and said, "You have to pay 10 yuan." This growing commercialism was probably the result of the increasing number of visitors since the museum was built.

I wondered why they did not ask me to pay when I took photos. Was it because I was with the professor or because their attitudes had changed?

1. **Sister Yang was the top "hairdresser" of Longga. All the brides and the leading characters in performances at festivals in the village would ask her to be their hairdresser.**
2. **The day-and-night wedding dinner only serves a few dishes; however, guests come and go hectically like a marketplace, and the blissful atmosphere contagious.**
3. **The bride and the bridesmaid**
4. **To balance the weight of their big hair, these women are used to place their hands on their waists. (by Ouyang Changpei)**







2

A Trip to the Hairdresser

Early in the next morning, we went to see the villagers do their hairdressing.

We walked along with women who were carrying water home. Before long we felt a bit tired, but the women with large pails of water weighing dozens of kilograms on their backs moved at a steady pace. All the way from the foot to the top of the mountain I did not see a drop of water spilled.

Longga has a water shortage. Women have to carry water from the covered well at the foot of the village. They have to wait patiently for the water oozing out from the bottom of the well and then scoop it, ladle by ladle, to fill the pail. They carry the pail on the back with the waist supporting the lower edge. As it rained continuously during the days we were there, more water than usual was available. They use more water for preparing food and cleaning on important occasions. This provided us a magnificent scene of water carrying.

It was the day of the Tiaohuapo Festival, when girls were dressed up to attract. They were exempt from hard jobs like carrying water. The most important task was to make a large beautiful hair bun. Sister Yang was the top "hairdresser" of Longga. All the brides and the leading characters in performances at festivals in the village would ask her to be their hairdresser.

The artificial hair was three meters long and weighs about four kilograms. Standing on a wooden stool, the hairdresser coiled it swiftly and skillfully to the wooden horn. Then she tied a complicated floral bow fast on the knot combed out of the hair with a bundle of long white wool threads to produce a magnificent hairstyle.

The boys no longer wore the large hair bun. At festivals they performed with the reed-pile flutes, the typical musical instrument of the Miao. The girls, weighed down with the "big heads", could only walk in quick short steps while supporting the hair buns with their hands.

The Joyous Tiaohuapo

They selected a relatively even slope about two kilometers from the village as the site for the Tiaohuapo Dance.

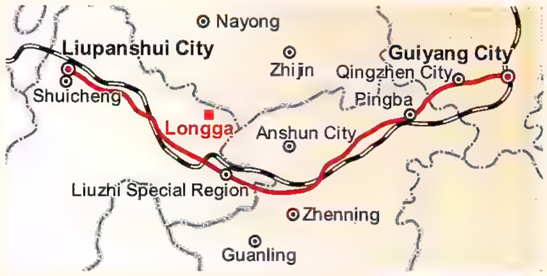
The participants included villagers from Longga and other villages. Some women wore large hair buns, others did not, but all had the majestic-looking big wooden horns on the head. Young people played reed-pile flutes and danced around the tree. The boys were good musicians, but in dancing they were no match for the girls, who must move with the heavy burden on their heads. They could not move their heads freely as they have to keep their balance. The movements of the dance depended merely on the hands, waist and feet. With the upper part of the body remaining erect and the lower part swaying vigorously, the dance looked very graceful.

The five thousand Miao people of the Suoga tribe have maintained their lifestyles for generations. These people were contented with their lots, provided that they had enough food and could afford to send at least one of their children to school. The traditional lifestyle of men working in the field while women taking care of house chores suited them just fine, and the festivals were the highlights of their lives.

Translated by Anju K.

1. **The graceful Tiaohuapo Dance**
2. **Lusheng is a unique reed-type wind musical instrument that ranges from less than half a meter to over two meters long.**
3. **Throughout the month of the Tiaohuapo Festival, young people can eat, stay, have fun and court freely in the twelve villages in turn.**

Tips for Travellers



The Place: The city Liupanshui in western Guizhou Province is composed of Liuzhi Special Region, Panxian County and Shuicheng County.

According to popular legend, the Qing Miao tribe started as a group of fugitive about several centuries ago. They eventually emerged in the area of Suoga. To scare away and confuse wild animals in the forests they tied a wooden horn to their heads and created a peculiar hairstyle. It has thus become the symbol of this Miao branch.

The Suoga Museum of Ecology: Jointly built by China and Norway in 1997, the museum is composed of 12 villages in Suoga and the data center located at the foot of Longga Village. A fir wood structure with a thick thatched roof, the data center collects and catalogues data of folk cutoms.

Getting There: Visitors can either take the train or bus from Guiyang City, provincial capital of Guizhou Province, to Pingzhai Town, the administrative centre of Liuzhi Special Region. There they should change buses to the foot of Longga Village. It takes about a half day. The traffic is light to Longga. Sometimes you have to go by bus to Suoga Township first and then proceed seven kilometers by foot to the destination.

Accommodation: At Liuzhi visitors can stay at the guesthouse of Liuzi Special Region. Some basic hotel facilities are also available. At Longga, the stone house of the museum's hostel is relatively well appointed. Facing the meandering mountains it has a charming view, but it has only a few standard rooms with toilets. The second choice is wooden rooms without private toilets.

Water is lacking in the village. Although they have water storage and running water facilities, inadequate well water is still posed as a major problem. Taking a bath is considered an extravagant. Beside washing your face and brushing your teeth, the best you can hope for is a rub down.

No food is available in the museum's hostel. You can eat with health workers living nearby. If your stay is short, you can bring instant noodles or canned food. It is not easy to adapt to the diet of the Qing Miao.

Festivals: Of the national festivals at Longga, Tiaohuapo held on the 10th day of the first lunar month is the most characteristic. Tree Worship falls on the first Dragon Day of the second lunar month. The next is Mountain Worship on the first Dragon Day of the third lunar month, followed by Rat Eradication Festival in the 11th Lunar month.

Tree Worship Festival is held in the forest near the village. The ritual executor, known as the Sorcerer of Ghosts, buries a jar filled with water in the earth and kills a chicken to worship the ancestors and trees. The rite goes on mysteriously with no female or people from other tribes in attendance.

The proceedings of the Mountain Worship are similar. The only difference is that the ritual executor takes off the cover of the water jar and examines the increase or decrease of the water to predict the year's harvest.

Rat Eradication Festival is of course the day the whole village goes rat catching. After that, they worship their ancestors, offering them sumptuous dishes, and then wish the village a bumper harvest.

胡同游览

北京
胡同文化
游览公司

Shichahai

New Beijing in the Heart of the Old City

Photos by Li Youxiang   Article by Zhao Wuwen

京华
饮天
烤肉季
烤肉季
银锭桥观山一景
烤肉季烤肉一绝
2

Every city projects its own personality. Shanghai, for example, often reminds people of its vanity.

Peaceful boating on the Qinhuai River, on the other hand, remains the typical image of the ancient capital city of Nanjing.

With Beijing, what comes easily to mind are the Forbidden City, the quadrangle houses, and the undulating and majestic Great Wall.

1

4

The weight of history accumulated over time has offset the image of the modern city that Beijing has become.

In reality, one needs time and energy to disillusion a city, just as one does with a person.

The Lake of Temples

On the map of Beijing, only limited water bodies can be seen. But interestingly enough, all these shallow water bodies have the name "hai", meaning sea, such as Shichahai. Such naming comes from the nomadic Mongolians, whom are used to inland areas where water is scarce. Since they are so impressed with the water bodies, they would name any shallow lake as "hai" or sea.

Shichahai didn't come to fame until the surrounding lakes had become a part of imperial backgarden several centuries ago. There are about 20 temples in the area of Shichahai Lake, and they were established for the convenience of women from the imperial families. "Cha" refers to a small temple while "shi" means "tens", hence the name of Shichahai.

Shichahai is a peaceful community in the increasingly modernized metropolis of Beijing.

Grey courtyard walls, lush and green willow trees, quiet water.... The beauty of Shichahai inspired many famous writers and poets in the past, including explorer Marco Polo. The poems, together with the quadrangles, and ancient temples, have become an indispensable part of Shichahai, enriching its cultural dimension.

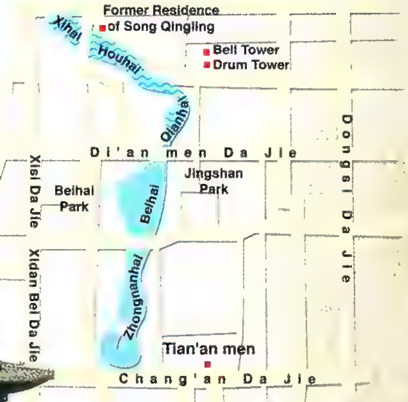
Yinding Bridge

Yinding (silver ingot) Bridge was originally a wooden bridge that shaped like an ingot. But in later years, it underwent repeated renovation and was finally transformed into a stone bridge with a white marble arch.

Yinding Bridge offers the best view of Shichahai Lake in the evening. The now narrow waters meet under the Yinding Bridge. In summer, visitors prefer to go boating on the lake and songs and music can be faintly heard coming from them. Some young people like to float small paper boats carrying lit candles on the water. All of sudden, it gives the feeling of boating on the Qinhuai River in Nanjing, even though the pleasure boats and tourists disturb the once serene Shichahai Lake.

Peddlers selling flowers or other small articles can always be seen near Yinding Bridge. This seems to be out of tune with the increasingly rich petty bourgeois atmosphere of the Shichahai area. But it is because of this lack of harmony that Shichahai seems to be restoring its atmosphere of lost times. A city, if it goes without its history, will lose its origin and soul; and if a city's history can't be remembered, it might as well be a city without a history.

1. **Yinding Bridge (by Joseph Ma)**
2. **Kaorouji, a long-standing restaurant, is famous for its BBQ meat. (by Joseph Ma)**
3. **The pedicabs by the Shichahai are filled with tourists. (by Joseph Ma)**
4. **The ancient alleys in Beijing, or Hutong, can be found all around Shichahai.**
5. **The Bell and Drum Towers are right by the Shichahai. (by Joseph Ma)**



The Map of Shichahai (the lake is comprised of three smaller lakes, namely Xihai, Qianhai and Houhai)

Bar District

The charm of Shichahai lies in its unique culture, and the bars of Shichahai have been extremely brisk. On summer nights, it is a special treat to chat with friends over tea under the dim light inside a small bar by the lake. Occasionally you may hear passer-by gossiping in pure Beijing dialect, or bicycle bells of young people returning home late, breaking the quiet night.

Compared with the hustle and bustle of the daytime, Shichahai is calm at night. The small bars here are exquisite, although they don't have showy names. They attract those people who know how to enjoy the tranquility of night.

Sanlitun in the east of the city becomes conspicuous and noisy. The bars there, big or small, are always crowded with people. In addition, there are band performances from time to time. It is no exaggeration to say that Sanlitun is the place with the largest population density in Beijing at night.

As a result, many Beijing residents have moved to Shichahai from Sanlitun to spend their nights. Because of the water and trees, clever bar managers have set their tables by the lake. With dim lights and breeze, the setting sets the perfect mood. You may even rent a wooden boat and go boating on the lake. It would be so much more comfortable than being in a jam-packed room with strangers.

1

Thirty-one and Chunrong

Most people pick a bar base on the detail of its decoration: an exquisite lamp, a small ornament, a piece of music or the style of the shade. Sometimes, even the expression of a waiter at the door can draw people in, perhaps all in the twinkle of an eye.

The boss of Thirty-one is a big lad of mild speech. He prefers gentle customers who chat quietly without disturbing others. He chose this place for its quietness, and also for its being the root of Beijing.

This bar is full of oriental decorations. It is clear that the small ornaments were carefully chosen by the boss to match the red wall. The bar is very small and can accommodate only three to four two-seat tables. But the intentionally lowered windows give a spacious feeling, and the carefully designed shade becomes a decoration of the outer walls, giving this small bar a different style.

The seats by the window face the water. Colorful lights shine on the water and the moving oars break the colors into shimmering waves. The night seen from this window becomes extremely charming. You can even see fashionably dressed girls passing by, amongst the local residents who live nearby. The interior of the bar opposite to this was in full swing. The noise mixed with the sounds from vehicles and people set the place buzzing.

The evening of Shichahai presents a better chance of witnessing the real life of Beijingers on the daytime because it gathers the most petty bourgeois, most fashionable and most philistine people in Beijing.

Located at the end of bar street, the bar Chunrong is a bit out of the way; but perhaps because it is far from the bustle, and therefore, it offers the comfort feeling of returning home.

The boss of Chunrong is a young woman who used to

2

be an actress. Her nostalgia for Chinese culture is embodied not only in the name of the bar, but in its details, including the ancient wooden window lattice, old-fashioned furniture, ornamental paintings and little ornaments on the furniture. Even the exhausted and desperate voice of Xu Wei (a young, very influential rock-and-roll singer) becomes an element to set off nostalgic feelings.

A Taste of Vietnam

Nuage means cloud in French. The word was engraved on the plate of a Vietnam-style restaurant at Shichahai. It is often neglected because many people neither know how to pronounce it nor its original meaning, but it is already famous enough that people will visit here no matter what.

The people who eat there may not remember all the dishes names, such as Dengying spring roll (a thin sheet of dough rolled, stuffed and fried), green papaya salad and Qingyun beef roll, but they definitely have a strong impression of the restaurant. The waiters and waitresses are in Vietnamese traditional clothing; there are lush green plants, Vietnamese shade.... everything there reminds you of Vietnam, bringing you to an exotic world.

Some petty bourgeoisies in Beijing regard eating in the Vietnamese restaurant as a kind of cachet. They have their reasons. Accordingly, the restaurant does brisk business. The seats by the windows have to be reserved two to three days in advance.

For modern people with fast paced lives, the slow tempo of the sub-tropic zone is a pleasant change.

Shichahai invokes endless nostalgia of native Beijingers. Yet, for the new generation of Beijingers, Shichahai is a place in vogue. It represents the most avant-garde lifestyle in a metropolis. And for visitors from outside Beijing, Shichahai is a scenic attraction worth visiting, full of great bars and restaurants.

Shichahai is where the past and the modern Beijing collide, and it will always capture the hearts of Beijingers.

Translated by Chen Qiping

1. **The bar of Shichahai**
2. **"Nuage" offers a taste of Vietnam.**
3. **The bars at Shichahai are more relaxed and laid back than those in Sanlitun.**
4. **The hostess of "Nuage" in Vietnamese traditional clothing.**

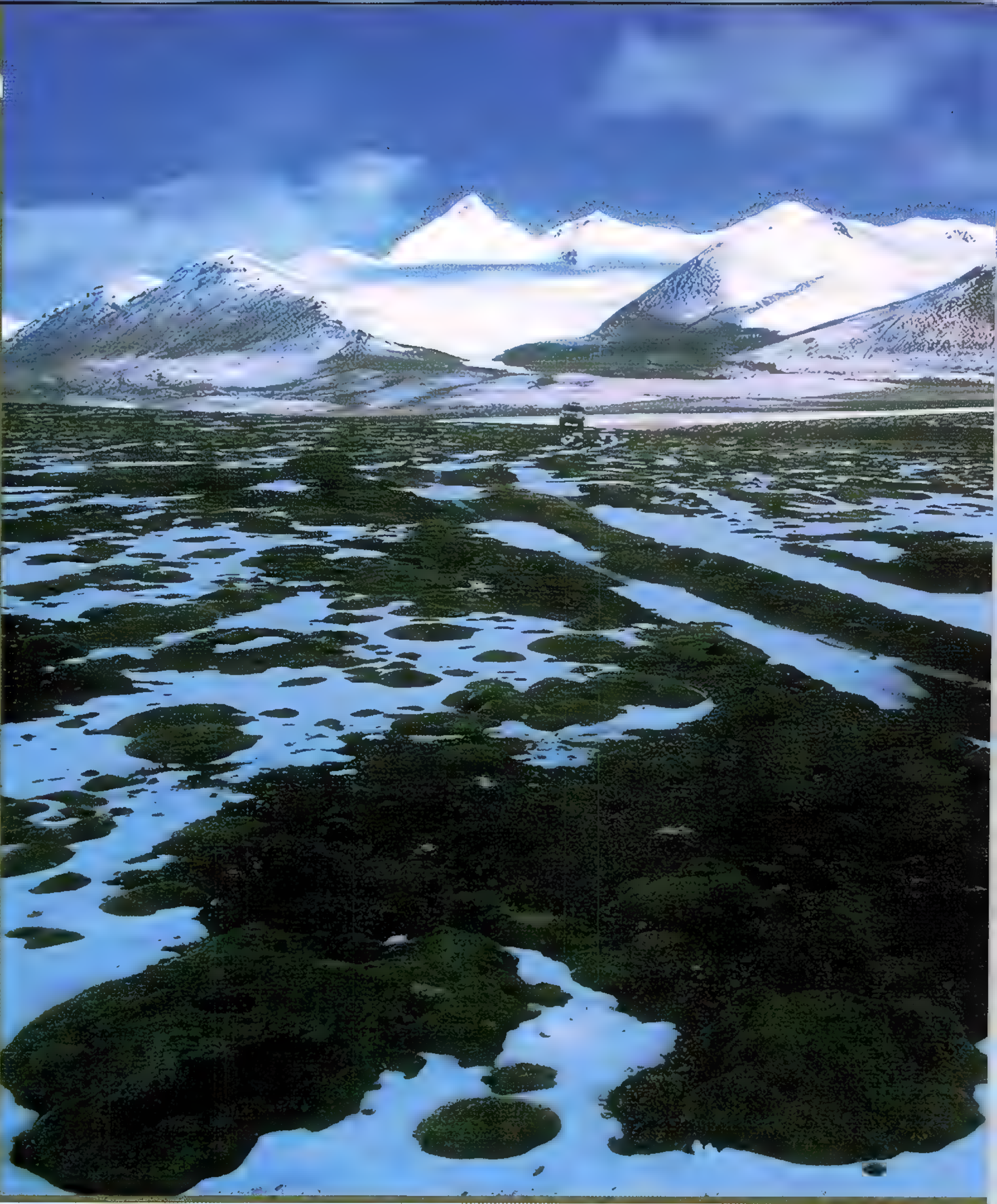
Tips

How to get there: Take Trolley Bus 111 and 118 or Bus 13, 701, 810, 850 and 823, get off at the stop of Beihai Northern Gate, or take Bus 5 and get off at Gulou stop.

Restaurants and bars:

Nuage	Address: 22 Dongyan, Qianhai	Tel: (10)6401 9581
Ji's Grill	Address: 14 Dongyan, Qianhai	Tel: (10)6404 2554
Chunrong Bar	Address: 37 Beiguanfang Hutong	Tel: (10)6613 5689
Thirty-One (Coffee)	Address: 18 Nanyan Houhai	Tel: (10)6616 4210

With the construction of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway and the south-north water diversion project, man is making an ever-greater impact on the already fragile eco-system in the headwaters of the Yangtze River. This has been made worse by the recession of glaciers, the degradation of the grasslands, desertification, illegal mining and poaching. The local herdsmen are wondering how much longer their way of life can survive.



Desperate Times at The Headwaters of the Yangtze

Photos and Article by Yang Xin

Liu Yuan, a PhD student of anthropology at the Central University for Nationalities, went to Soinam Darje Nature Reserve in the summer of 2001 and worked there for a month. After that, he picked the Hoh Xil area as the subject of his social research for his doctorial dissertation.

Returning to The Yangtze Headwaters

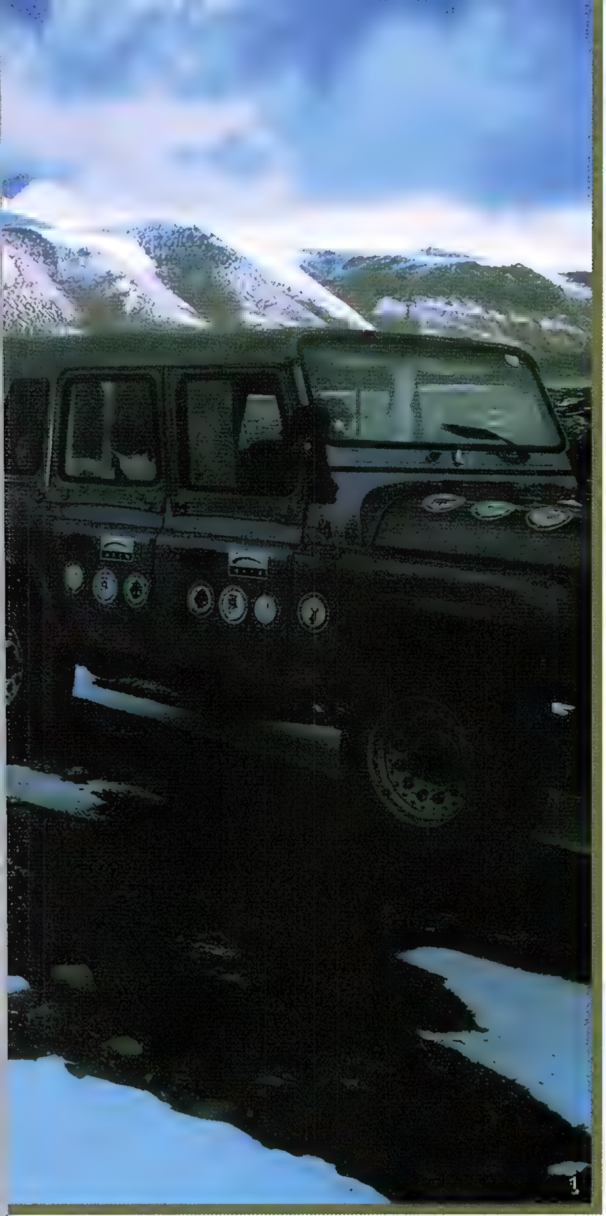
In April 2003, funded by the Dandelion Program of the "Friends of Nature" and Airwolf of Taiwan, Liu Yuan and the friends of "The Green Rivers" began their anthropological investigation of the ecology at the headwaters of the Yangtze River. Looking at the lives and production of the herdsmen, they studied changes in the social conduct of the people and the changing ecological environment.

Among the seven team members were three Tibetans: Hanmei our doctor, Lhaba the driver, and Yutrim. Lhaba and Yutrim used to be members of the Wild Yak Team, both working at the Administration of Hoh Xil State-level Nature Reserve, and both experienced in driving in the wilderness and car repair.

Modern Times in An Ancient Way of Life

In the first day at the headwaters, our team drove rather smoothly over the Lesser Thanglha Mountain on a familiar route, covering 50 km in three hours. With that speed, we were able to camp by the Dor Qu River that night. The snow-capped Geladaindong Peak appeared to be within easy reach.

The obvious change in the area along the way was the increasing number of ruts in the roads. The headwaters — accessible only to vehicles of expedition and mountaineering



teams in the past — are now reached by business people who drive to the pastures in winter to barter and trade. Some rich herdsmen have bought cars for business and travel. Now fewer herdsmen are seen riding horses or herding cattle along the road to Yanshiping. Traditional culture and the way of life are being challenged by the temptations of modern civilization.

Meeting The Ice

Our car reached its limit at a place three kilometers from the Jangkutirug glacier. We camped at a flat spot by a small river with potable water. The 6,621-m Geladaindong, the main peak of Thanglha Mountain, was right in front of us. It was surrounded by about twenty 6,000-m-high peaks covered in snow all year round. In Tibetan, Geladaindong means a tall tapering mountain. Kanggya Qupag Glacier — once the biggest glaciers at the headwaters of the Yangtze — lay before us. It is the source of the Dor Qu River, a branch of the Dam Qu River, which runs into the Yangtze to the south. There are 104 glaciers around Gelandaidong Peak. As a gigantic solid reservoir, the glaciers are rich sources for the Yangtze — the longest river in China, as well as for the Nujiang and Lancang Rivers.

The First Drops of The Yangtze

Two hours later, we reached the foot of the Kanggya Qupag Glacier — the biggest around Geladaindong Peak and the first glacier we saw at the headwaters of the Yangtze. Observing the glacier in May, we could perceive its grandeur and its grace.

Because of the big difference in temperature, its surface melts during the day and freezes at night. The frozen running water then forms icicles and stalactites of snow up to several metres high. At midday in the burning sun, the icicles melt into water, looking crystal clear against the azure blue sky. These are the first drops to form the Yangtze River. However, growing worry tempers my excitement every time I arrive at the gigantic glacier at the Yangtze headwaters. The global greenhouse effect has caused the rapid recession of the glaciers at the Yangtze headwaters. According to the data published by the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping in 1999, the glaciers at the Yangtze headwaters shrank 600 m in 30 years, an average of 20 m a year. How long before the glaciers are gone?

In the afternoon, all the team members came back to the campsite. As we had exerted ourselves physically, everyone suffered from the reaction to high altitudes to a degree. Jin Xin was the most serious. He looked very pale, his lips purple. Dr. Han, a specialist of high altitude sickness at Golmud City Hospital and a volunteer on the team, gave him oxygen. As Jin Xin was seriously sick, Dr. Han refused to sleep in the tent, but stayed in the car at night, so that she could observe Jin Xin's condition. Dr. Han was also our Tibetan language interpreter.

1. **Our car must pass icy rivers, mires and swamps before reaching the Yangtze headwaters. Behind the cars is the "tall and tapering" Geladaidong Peak.**
2. **The Kanggya Qupag Glacier melts during the day, forming huge icicles.**

1

Jangkutirug Glacier

After leaving Kanggya Qupag Glacier, we camped by Choma Tso Lake. We had used so much gasoline on the bumpy road that we did not have enough to reach Jangkutirug Glacier. After repeated calculations, we abandoned our plan to camp at the foot of the glacier. Instead, only one car would go there so that we could save some gasoline.

The next day, seven of us got into one car. There was no ready route to the glacier. We didn't dare take the trail local Tibetans showed us, as that was the path used by the horse riders to herd cattle. Four wheels were not as flexible as four hooves.

At 2 p.m. we reached the mountain ridge between the northern and southern sections of the Jangkutirug Glacier (southwest of Geladaindong Peak).

The Yangtze headwaters used to be a paradise for animals. When I first came here in 1986, I saw a herd of about a hundred of Tibetan antelopes on the flood land at the foot of Geladaindong Peak. They raised a cloud of dust whenever they broke into a run. Now in the same place and the same season, only a handful were visible. The local herdsmen confirmed my observations. "We used to have a lot of wild yaks and Tibetan antelopes around here. But the rampant poachers have killed them in large numbers, so it is very rare to see a score of them together now." The herdsmen stressed that the poachers mostly come from other places.

In the burning sun, the glacier melts and gathers water to produce the source of the Yangtze — the Tuotuohe River. Standing before the massive Jangkutirug Glacier, everyone was filled with excitement and reverence, because it was here that the first droplet of water in the Yangtze River was formed. Dr. Han, Yutrim and Lhaba hung a colourful prayer banner in the wind. Then they made a fire with cow dung, burned some Tibetan incense, and began to pray as they scattered "wind-horses" into the air. Dr. Han lay prostrate on the ground in all sincerity. The Tibetans revere Nature, for they believe that everything comes from Nature. In Tibet, traditional culture and natural scenery are well protected.

Life at The Yangtze Headwaters

Before the 1990s, herdsmen living at the Yangtze headwaters were relatively cut off from the outside world and had little contact with the local government as well as with one another.

Since then, the local government makes an appointment to meet with the herdsmen every year on May 1st and the herdsmen send at least one person from each household to attend the meeting at the township government building for better understanding and discussion. On that day, the meeting place of the township government is like a market fair in the hinterland. Besides the herdsmen coming for the meeting, there are vendors and monks. The meeting goes on at the same time as scripture chanting and buying and selling. The Yangtze headwaters are in a purely pastoral area, so all the daily necessities, such as clothes, grain, tea and salt, ship from other areas. The herdsmen trade for these goods with wool, ox hair, and cashmere. The standard price for half a kilogram of wool is a kilogram of grain (rice or flour).

Scattered around the grassland, the herdsmen gather together only at the annual horseracing fair. In June all the production teams hold the fair, which normally lasts for seven days, an occasion also for grand gatherings and discussions. On the 15th day of the fifth month of the Tibetan calendar, the local people will hold a memorial ceremony for the sacred mountain, Bagar — to pray for a good year and blessings for their cattle and sheep. On that day, men will wear Tibetan robes and fox fur caps, carry their guns or knives, ride around the sacred mountain three times while burning incense and spreading "wind-horses". Monks will also be invited from other places to chant scriptures.

Young people are free to get married. As long as a man and a woman are in love, they can marry without the consideration of things like betrothal gifts. When their child is born, parents from both sides will send them cattle and sheep, which they hope will bring them ample food and clothing. The herdsmen believe that when children are born, they have nothing. If given some cattle, they will have a ger (yurt); if given some sheep, they will have meat to eat. Because of the sparse population, the locals are mostly related to one another by marriage or by blood.

As in other areas inhabited by Tibetans, celestial burial (by which bodies are exposed to birds of prey) is adopted for all, except those who die of infectious diseases, at the Yangtze headwaters. There is only one local master of celestial burial. If he is not available, a male family member of the departed will assume the responsibility. There is no regular platform for the celestial burial in the area, so it is performed on any slope close and appropriate enough for the occasion.

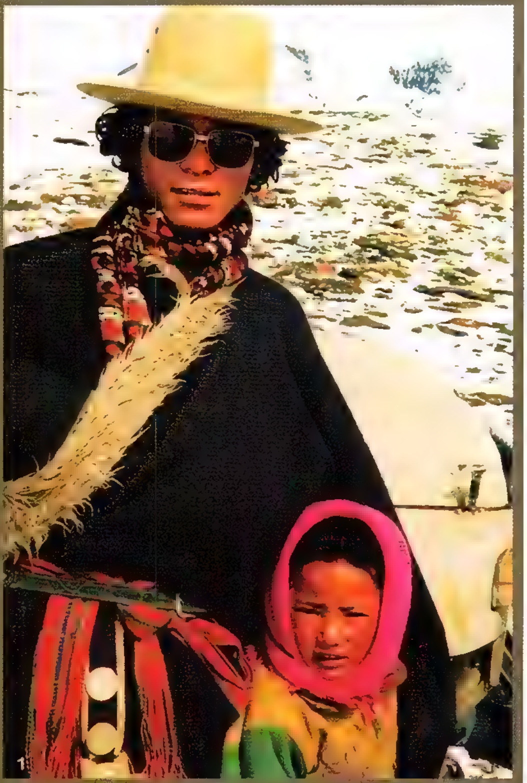
For centuries, the herdsmen have followed the traditional way of life. They graze cattle and sheep on the pastures, live in gers, wear sheepskin jackets, eat beef and mutton, use ox dung as fuel, and live a life of self-reliance in great harmony with nature. Yet their way of life is being changed gradually.

Traffic Noises in The Highland Wilderness

Each time I go to the Yangtze headwaters, I feel the deterioration of the environment. The fragile eco-system can no longer stand the double loads from man and nature. The newly grown grass — in places recently exposed by the recession of the Kanggya Qupag Glacier between icy stone heaps — is used quickly as pasture by the locals. Cattle are herded in places as high as the glacier tongue at 5,000 m above the sea level around the Jangkutirug Glacier. This is the highest place where plants can grow, the last pastureland for the local herdsmen. The grasslands on both sides of the Mar Qu Valley, stretching a dozen kilometers from the Jangkutirug Glacier, have degenerated almost completely in about 10 years. A herdsman named Nyisha used to live here. I took a break at his house every time I went to Jangkutirug Glacier. I don't know where he has gone now.

At the foot of Geladaidong Peak, I was invited into the tent of Nyoyor who had been

1. **A melting river in May at the Yangtze headwaters**
2. **The Kanggya Qupag Glacier**
3. **Herdsmen at the Yangtze headwaters attending cattle and sheep in the grip of a severe frost.**



my guide many times. He showed me his new car, and told me proudly that he was the first to buy a car in the neighbourhood. This reminded me of Yushu County, Qinghai Province. In the mid 1980s, herdsmen living around the county seat went to town on horseback. In the mid 1990s, horses were replaced by motorcycles. By the end of the 1990s, motorcycles were gradually replaced by Beijing jeeps. How many sheep and cattle were needed for such a change? There is a limit to which the pastureland can be used. I am very worried about the way the herdsmen have kept up with the times.

Disappearing Pastureland

"The pasture is getting worse year by year," the herdsmen often say. They complain that the climate is getting worse; there is more and more snow in winter, but summer is getting drier. Meanwhile, the volume of water in the river has increased as the glaciers are melting faster. The herdsmen believe that degradation has occurred on the pastureland and mountains over some time. The soil and grass are gradually becoming less fertile, so the sheep and cattle stay underweight even if they eat their fill. They produce less milk than before, and they are not as tall as they used to be. Ten years ago, a sheep could weigh up to 70 kg. Now they are considered big if they weigh only 50 or 60 kg.

As to why the pasture has deteriorated, elderly people believe the underground minerals have been wantonly exploited. The 55-year-old herdsman Nyima told us, "The same applies to a man. If his chest and stomach are cut open, he will suffer a lot. The pasture and mountain work the same way. When the gold and crystal mines beneath them were excavated, they must have hurt greatly. There is a mountain called 'Milky Mountain' by the Geladaidong Peak. In the past before crystal was dug out, when a cow ate the lush grass there for a night, its milk would run out by itself the next morning without pressing. Since the mining, the cows just can't give enough milk though they eat a lot of grass. A cow used to be able to produce quite a few litres of milk, but now their milk will run dry after a short while."

During the 1950s, a crystal mine was operated by the Geladaidong Peak. Later the mining stopped.

Scientists believe that besides natural conditions, the increase in population and the number of cattle and sheep is also an important factor in the deterioration of the pastureland. According to the Outline of Development and Environment of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, the degeneration of the pasture and increase in the number of cattle and sheep has caused the average pasture space available for a sheep to fall from 183 ha in the 1950s to 79 ha in 1985, a drop of 57%. Now after 18 years, the deterioration of the pasture could only be much more serious.

With the opening of the Qinghai-Tibet railway, more cultural influences from outside will come to the headwaters of the Yangtze, bringing more temptations and challenges to the simple lives of the herdsmen. The ecological system will make us worry all the more.

Tranlated by Yuling

1. **A herdsman's family at the headwaters of the Yangtze**
2. **Liu Yuan, a member of the exploration team, plays with a baby.**

About the Author:
Tao Ran, a native of Jiaoling County, Guangdong Province, graduated from the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, Beijing Normal University. He is the editor-in-chief of Hong Kong Literature, a member of the China Writers' Association, and the deputy director of Hong Kong Writers' Association.

Toying With Nature's Killers

Article by Tao Ran

In Thailand, the best-known place to see crocodiles is used to be the Samut Prakan Crocodile Farm and Zoo. As times changed, however, Samut Prakan is seen as "backward". The new hip place to see crocodiles? Si Racha Tiger Farm is it.

Midway along the express way from Bangkok to Pattaya Beach, there locates this new crocodile farm, and it is by far more intriguing than Samut Prakan. Besides crocodiles, there are four hundred tigers and elephants performing in the farm. And for the adventurous tourists, they may even consider taking pictures with the most poisonous scorpions, which can kill with a single sting from their tails. But visitors have nothing to fear. The scorpions are familiar with the smell of the scorpion guides, who pose for group photos with visitors. Only by staying close to one of these guides can visitors be safe as the overwhelming smell acts like an invisible protective barrier.

The Si Racha Tiger Farm is the largest of its kind in the world with 120,000 crocodiles. The crocodile trainers are trained to keep audiences in total suspense. Every time a trainer put his or her head inside a crocodile's mouth, the audiences have no choice but to hold their breath, until the trainer withdraws his or her head from crocodile's mouth before it closes with a forceful "Whump!" Even though audiences know that the performance takes hours of practice and preparation, but they are still impressed nevertheless.

The idiom "crocodile tears" refers to an act of insincere grief, yet the animal never feigns sadness when it attacks. Crocodiles are one of nature's most efficient hunters. They are reptiles, but that can stay under water for up to 12 hours. Usually they lie close to the riverbank, waiting for large mammals to come for drinks. They take their preys by complete surprise, dragging them to the river and drowning them. Once they make sure their prey is dead, they would drag it back on land and start eating. Then again, if they cannot finish their meal at one time, they would bury it in the sand and would only dig it out when they get hungry. Don't worry if the meat gets rotten over time, for the crocodiles' bodies are attuned to it.

The farm manager insists that crocodiles are not all fierce and bloodthirsty by nature. Artificial breeding can help changing their temperaments, and the trick is to hatch the baby crocodiles below 31°C.

Crocodiles are valuable animals, for all their body parts are very expensive. Their skins are perfect for fashion accessories; their viscera and blood, medicine; and their flesh, delicacy. Since every crocodile has only three kilograms of edible flesh, it is not uncommon to have several crocodiles killed for a feast.

The other highlight of the farm is the tigers. Immediately inside the entrance is a hill of tigers behind a glass wall. A bevy of tigers lay on the ground or idled around; only one tiger stands very near, separated from visitors by the glass wall. A Kenyan tiger trainer, who looks like he just walked out of the African jungle, carries a electric stun gun to protect himself. His job was to make sure that the tiger is facing towards the visitors, allowing the tourists to take pictures that look like they are standing side by side with the animal.

The most interesting part of the trip is seeing the big Finland hog nursing a group of cubs. The cubs start living with the hog when they are less than a week old. By having a hog as mother and a dog as father, these cubs will start changing their natures. Furthermore, the roles are reversed every four generations. By then, the tigresses will nurse the baby pigs. All these work of role-playing is to have the visitors feel safer when holding the animals for pictures. This is a rather cool zoo, isn't it?

Translated by Li Guoqing

1

Yang Zhiming

— A Lifelong "Journey"

Photos and Article by Joseph Ma

Even though Mr. Yang is well over 80, but he is still zealous of everything about travelling. He once exhausted himself so badly from editing travel guides that he needed to be hospitalized. The minute before he was taken to the operation table, he was giving out travel books to the nurses and doctors, urging them not to miss out on the magnificent tourist attractions. During his recovery in the hospital, he would tell anyone who was willing to listen about the magic of travelling. This "mad man", Yang Zhiming, is our very first chief editor.

I first met Yang in the spring of 1984, when I had just returned from an extensive tour in mainland China. With little experience and much enthusiasm, I joined China Tourism Magazine as a journalist. At that time, Yang was the chief editor, very experienced in the trade of travel publications. Due to poor health, he was unable to work every day. Pity, for I missed so many chances to learn from him.

2

Actually, the predecessor of China Tourism Magazine, "Feng Guang (Scenery)" (Yang was the chief editor there), taught me how to travel in China when the country had just begun its open-door policy. There were only a few travel magazines on China at that time. Guided by an article in "Feng Guang", I walked the Silk Road for the first time. Without the travelling tips from the magazine, I might have missed so much along the way. I never expected that several years later, I would be fortunate enough to enter the travel publishing industry, and to work in the same company of this respectable mentor. Although I had no personal interaction with him, his books had given me so much.

A Long Journey to the Hospital

Later, Yang finally retired, but only from his position, not from his work. He immediately set off to work on "New Travel Routes in China", a publication of the latest touring sites. He also wrote "For Editors and Designers of Travel Magazines", a useful handbook for newcomers to the trade.

In 1996, after much hard work, Yang finished a large album for a well-established publisher, "The Complete Guide of New Tourist Sites in China". This book is highly informative, with many elaborately selected photos and articles. Yang was then 75, but with much resolution he finished editing. However, his health took a turn for the worse, for an atherosclerosis appeared.

Of course he wanted to get better, particularly for the sake of his wife, a half-century companion. He was not the type who feigned toughness and refused to be treated. However, he was so impatient that he'd rather go for the radical therapy. But considering his age, the doctors were unwilling to try surgery; they preferred a more conservative approach instead.

A Human Touch on the Landscape

As soon as his health was stabilized, Yang started working on two Chinese map albums again. "Most albums are flat, having only contour lines. They are unable to reflect shapes of mountains and terrains. There was a shaded-relief album published years ago, but its contents were outdated." This situation prompted Yang to make a better one while his health permitted.

"Maps are important," Yang said. "With knowledge of topographic features, a traveller may get a deeper understanding of a place, as well as the impact on humanity on the landscape." He was eager to pour out his heart during a short conversation.

To publish the album, Yang used his pension to get assistance from scientists of the Chinese Academy of Surveying and Mapping. With the most advanced computer technology, they made shaded-relief maps. In January 1999, Yang finally finished compiling the book, "Spectacular Chinese Landscapes". Besides complete maps on all provinces of the country, the book has brief introductions and beautiful photos for each. It is a highly collectable and handy reference map book. In July the same year, he published yet another book, "Across Chinese Lands", a book of scenic places with maps and photos. The next year, another publication was out, "Travel Routes of China", and it contained over 400 pages of articles, including pieces of his own life-long "journeys" all across China.

"Feng Guang" was a travel magazine Yang established during the 1970s.

1. **Yang holds his works in arms like his little children.**
2. **"Lotus" depicts the nature in Zhongshan.**
3. **Yang has a life-long emotional attachment to maps. These albums are the latest.**

1

A Constant Travel Companion

It was hard to imagine, at his age, and with poor health, that he could publish so many books one after the other. In 2000, his coronary artery situation had gotten serious. After check-ups, three of his coronary arteries were found to have massive blockages. His life was in danger. Immediate heart surgery was necessary. Such an operation was very risky for an 80-year-old man.

Risky as the surgery was, it was better than being bed-ridden, gasping for breath. Yang was willing to take the risk.

Before he was carried into the operating room, he knew that he might not come out alive. At this moment, he gave his surgeons the books he had published, the books that had cost him his health. He repeatedly told them the beautiful places in China, the different customs and scenes. This infinite zest exhibited a life-long emotional entanglement with travelling in China.

Yang was well aware of his health situation. For the last two years, he stopped producing any more publications. After the surgery, he was unable to travel afar. Instead, he spent his time practicing calligraphy. Whenever a journalist came to see him, he was eager to share his experience and his many ideas about the Chinese travel trade.

"Haiguang" was a geographic magazine Yang served as a chief editor. It was launched in 1953, exactly half a century ago.

Nightmares of The Worse Case Scenarios

"Not only descriptions of a tourist site," Yang had repeatedly emphasized, "but feelings and afterthoughts are necessary. Feelings must be shown for depth and human impact. Take the sheepskin raft in northwest China for instance, what is the meaning behind it? Geography and social customs must be described in details. Deep understanding and description are necessary, because travel guides are not merely a series of pretty pictures.

"At present, many artificial scenic spots are made in China, installing modern facilities at the convenience and pleasure of the tourists. Most people think that travelling is all about comfort and indulgence. Actually, traveling can lead to a deep probing into life.

"I often had nightmares in the past," Yang continued. "I often dreamed of a shortage of articles for an issue. That's why I tried to solicit as many articles and photos from travellers as I can, because they are resourceful and knowledgeable. I also published articles and photos from readers too. Only from their perspective, will our magazine better meet their needs." Yang's passion for editing and making a successful magazine remains strong even after his illness, and his work ethnic is something that I will try my best to emulate.

Translated by Li Guoqing

2

Children books Yan edited during the 1940s.

1. **Drawing, painting and calligraphy, Yang mastered all of them by himself.**
2. **Yang has vigorous, easy and flowing handwriting.**

Postscript

My secret hope was to get copies of past issues of Feng Guang Magazine from Yang. They are all history now, including the one I used during the Silk Road trip. Pity, none of the past issues or photos were kept. I had a strong sense of loss. Most elders like to hoard things, but Yang was clearly an exception, for his room was only filled with his new paintings and calligraphy works.

Ways to Keep Cash Secure

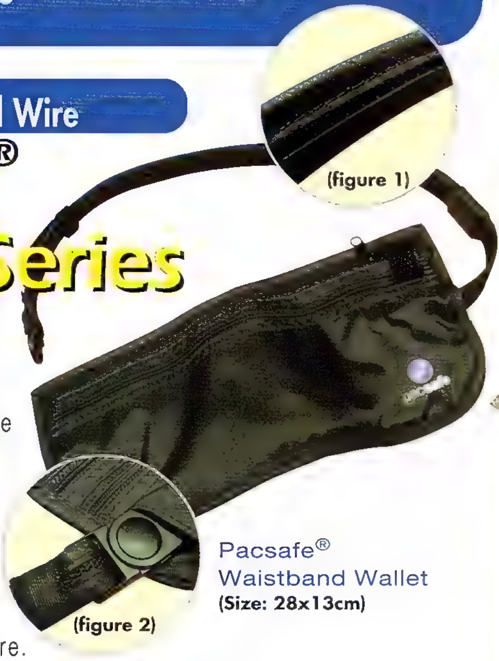
Photos and Article by Aylin

Keeping cash secure can be a challenge for many travellers. Some rely on credit cards and banks, but they may need to put up with steep service charges and poor exchange rate. What's more, credit cards and cheques are useless in remote places. It's better to take plenty of cash with you, and keep them safe in the specially designed travel wallet.

With Stainless-steel Wire

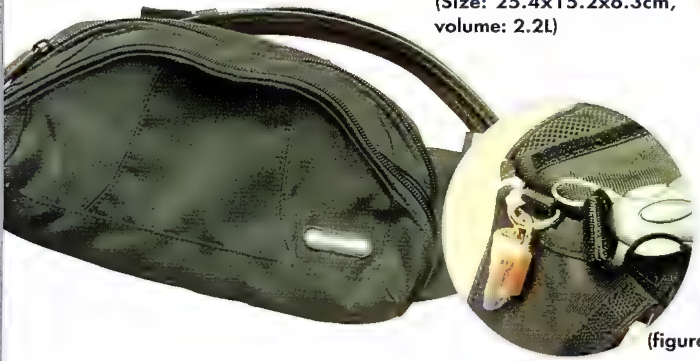
Pacsafe® Wallet Series

Don't be fooled by its plain exterior. Waterproof and breathable, these wallets have adjustable straps, and their waistbands and neckbands are made of stainless-steel wire. The wire is both resilient and durable, and it is wrapped in a protective layer (figure 1). Furthermore, the hidden safety locks make the wallets extra secure (figure 2 & 3).



Pacsafe® Waistband Wallet
(Size: 28x13cm)

Pacsafe® Neckwear Wallet
(Size: 18x14cm, weight: 60g)



Pacsafe® Waistband Wallet
(Size: 25.4x15.2x6.3cm, volume: 2.2L)

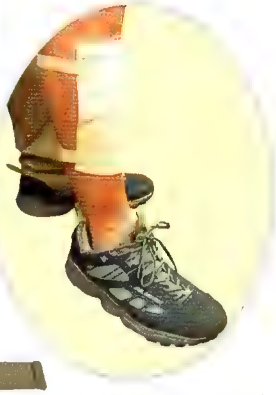
Second Skin Wallets

MIS Wallet Series

MIS strap with hidden pocket

Made of CoolMax® breathable materials, this series offers special wallets that can fasten on calf and straps with hidden pockets. The calf-wallets are fastened with magic patches, and the straps have pockets that are as large as 14.8″ x 1″. Perfect hiding places for cash!

MIS CoolMax® wallet
(Size: 6.8″ x 5.5″, 60″ long adjustable strap)



MIS CoolMax® Calf-wallet

MIS CoolMax® Waistband Wallet
(Size: 5.5"x1.2")

Maximum Shutter Speed

——Photographing the Macau Grand Prix

Photos by Ma Zhixin   Article by Lin Jianzhang

In November this year, Macau celebrated its 50th year as "the Monte Carlo of the East" with the return of its oldest sport, the Macau Grand Prix.

The Grand Prix is the grandest event of its kind in Macau and it enjoys a high reputation in the international race circles.

The 6.2-km-long Guia Street circuit is unique with its straights, slopes and many winding roads. Negotiating the roads in Guia Hill is a challenge for every driver.

The first Macau Grand Prix was held in November 1954, and the race facilities were rather poor at that time. There were only sand bags and bamboo sheds built along the runway as fenders, and the unprotected audiences had to stand on both sides of the racetrack. Nowadays, steel railings and safety nets are implemented throughout the track for better protection.

The Macau sponsors widely publicized the event, and they invited

casino.com
27

many leading racers. The Grand Prix ran from four to six days, attracting tourists and correspondents from all over the world.

The event included many races, such as the classic car race, vintage car race, Guia car race, Grand Prix motorcycle race, touring car race as well as the Macau Formula 3 Grand Prix.

Every year, correspondents and enthusiastic photographers from many different countries would dig out their camera lenses and look into the best vantage points beforehand, hoping to shoot some great pictures.

Where to Stand

This street-like raceway has many good spots for taking pictures, such as the stand at the starting point, Lisboa Bay, and San Francisco hill, Guia Hill, Melco Hairpin, and R.Bend. To guarantee safety, the Macau authorities put these spots under strict control. Photographers must apply for special licenses from the sponsors for taking shots at the designated spots.

1. **The stand at the starting point:** This spot is at the press stand by Jai Alai Bay, where photographers can take pictures of the start of all cars with a long-focus lens.
2. **Lisboa Bend:** This is a 90-degree bend, where cars frequently have accidents.
3. **San Francisco Hill:** By the raceway in the middle section of the slope, this spot is very small and narrow, and can only hold a few photographers. As the spot is close to the runway, it is very exciting when the cars zoom past.

4. **Guia Hill:** This section of raceway has many bends, making it is the best spot to shoot cars turning. However there is not much space for photographers.
5. **Fishermen's Road:** Also an ideal spot, but it is on an isolated island at a bend in the track. To get there, one must go before the race with enough water and food. Once there, you must stay until the event is finished and the road is open again.
6. **Melco Hairpin:** where every car must slow down to take a tight turn. More often than not, there appears a long line of cars.
7. **R.Bend:** Running from Guia Hill and leaving the road, via Fishermen's Road, the cars will accelerate. With a long-focus lens of 400 mm to 600 mm, you can take wonderful pictures of a long procession of cars.
8. **The repair station at the starting point:** With the help of some beautiful bikini models, most sponsors usually show off their products here.

Equipment

To take good pictures of the cars, it is best to use a 135 single-lens reflector, and an automatic film-rolling motor. You should mainly use a long-focus lens: 300-600 mm lenses are good, and 80-200 mm, and 28-70 mm lenses prove can be useful sometimes. The weather will directly affect the quality of your pictures. If it is fine, you can use 100- or 200-degree films, and put the high-speed films aside.

Taking pictures of speeding race cars, you need to regulate the shutter speed between 1/15 and 1/60 of a second, with the camera and lens following racing cars at a parallel level in the same direction. A fairly slow shutter will create a picture with a blurred background, and clear cars, with a dynamic view. If you shoot at a group of cars of lengthwise movement, the shutter speed should not be slower than 1/125 per second.

As the cars run at a high speed, it is very difficult to focus on them. So you should use the continuous focus function of an automatic focus camera. Taking a group of pictures with rapid-speed films can obtain satisfactory pictures. Of course, you must not be stingy with your film.

Translated by Kuang Peihua

FOCUS ON XINJIANG

On the vast land of Xinjiang in Northwest China, there are mountains, basins, deserts and lakes, all providing tourists with numerous attractions — ruins of ancient cities and tombs along the Silk Road; Turpan, an oasis in the desert; Kanas Lake, a gem embedded in the Altay Mountains; Bayanbulak, the Swan Lake; and the world's second largest desert, the Taklimakan. The minority ethnic groups living in Xinjiang, such as the Uygur, Kazak, Mongolian, Uzbek, Tajik, Xibe, Kirgiz and Tatar, all have their own unique and colourful culture.

新
Focus on
Xinjiang

FOCUS ON SHAANXI

Shaanxi is the cradle of the Chinese civilisation and Xi'an was the capital of 13 dynasties. This has left Shaanxi a rich legacy of historical sites and cultural relics. In the provincial capital Xi'an, there is the fascinating terracotta army unearthed from the tomb of the First Emperor, Qin Shihuang; the tomb of Tang-dynasty Wu Zetian, China's first empress; and the stele forest. The province's beauty is capped with the sheer cliffs of Mount Huashan and the yellow earth of the Loess Plateau.

陝
Focus on
Shaanxi

FOCUS ON YUNNAN

The mountainous wonderland of Yunnan enjoys a favourable warm climate all year round. Its capital, Kunming, sitting alongside Yunnan's largest lake, Dianchi, has the honourable name of "Spring City". The province is full of natural wonders and cultural relics, such as the Stone Forests, the Shangri-la, and the ancient cities of Dali and Lijiang. With over 20 diverse ethnic groups making up about one-third of the population, opportunities abound for you to see their characteristic cultures and customs.

滇
Focus on
Yunnan

The Call of China's West

FOCUS ON TIBET

The Tibet Autonomous Region of China is a land of mystery for tourists, a land of wonders for explorers, a land of purity for Buddhists, and the ultimate challenge for mountaineers. Its beautiful landscapes, unique geographical features and rich cultural legacy continue to attract an increasing number of visitors.

The countless attractions of Tibet make it impossible to include them all in one book. This photographic publication offers an introduction to some of the Region's most celebrated features: the Potala Palace and its precious collection of cultural relics; the Jokhang Temple with strings of worshippers prostrating themselves before it; the Shoton Festival and the Sunning of Buddha ceremony; the ruins of the mystical Guge Kingdom; and the amazing Qiangtang Grassland....

At the same time, *Focus on Tibet* outlines the six major routes to Tibet and the many stunning landscapes found along the way.

Paperback Only

藏
Focus on Tibet
西藏遊

FOCUS ON GUIZHOU

Guizhou is a land of splendid natural scenery. Its towering mountains and karst landforms team up with the gurgling rivers and magnificent waterfalls to form a wonderful work of Mother Nature. Huanguoshu Waterfalls and the limestone caves are the province's most frequented scenic spots. The 17 ethnic groups living in the picturesque province further colour the land with vivid customs and joyous festivals. It is its natural beauty and culture that make Guizhou a perfect travel destination.

黔
Focus on
Guizhou

FOCUS ON GUANGXI

Unusual topography has endowed the province with numerous spectacular karst formations — limestone caves, pinnacles and rocks. The most famous and enchanting scenic spot is Guilin, and the most travelled route, on the Lijiang River from Guilin to Yangshuo. The coastal city of Beihai has the country's largest beach, the Silver Beach. Other attractions include the diverse traditional customs of ethnic minorities, the Sino-Vietnamese border area, and the mysterious Huashan cliff paintings.

桂
Focus on
Guangxi

ORDER FORM

TITLE	PRICE (surface postage included)			
	Local	Copy	Overseas	Copy
Focus On Tibet	HK$84		HK$96 / US$12	
Focus On Xinjiang	HK$130		HK$160 / US$20	
Focus On Shaanxi	HK$130		HK$160 / US$20	
Focus On Yunnan	HK$130		HK$160 / US$20	
Focus On Guizhou	HK$130		HK$160 / US$20	
Focus On Guangxi	HK$130		HK$160 / US$20	
Total				

** For registered mail, add HK$13 / US$1.7.*

*** All of the above are hardbacks, except "Focus on Tibet".*

Subscriber's Information

Name: ____________________

Subscription No. (if applicable): ____________________

Address: ____________________

____

Daytime Tel.: ____________________

E-mail: ____________________

Payment:

Credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER ☐ AE

Credit card no.: ____________________

Expiry date: ____________________

Cardholder's signature: ____________________

Please mail your order form to:
Hong Kong China Tourism Press
24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road,
Quarry Bay, Hong Kong; or fax to: (852) 2561 8196.
For more information, please call (852) 2561 8001 or
e-mail to mktg@hkctp.com.hk.

A Taste of Peasant Life

Literary Giants and Coarse Food in Xi'an

Photos by Chen Tuanjie   Article by Chen Xu and Shi Baoxiu

City life can wear anyone out with its endless noises and hustle and bustle. The best get-away trip is going to a quiet restaurant with family or friends, enjoying gourmet dishes together. My favourite place is the Wenhao (literary giant) Zaliang (coarse food) Restaurant in Xi'an*.

Wenhao Zaliang Restauran

Keeping Up with Demand

In the evening, the downtown area of southern Xi'an (Second Ring Road) is busy with a constant stream of cars, buses and bright lights. Although the Wenhao Zaliang Restaurant is just right around the corner, it is still a heavenly escape from noises.

This restaurant imitates the traditional architect. It has a pair of stone lions crouching under the two red lanterns that hang in front of the restaurant. A hostess dressed in red stands by the front gate, ready to greet the guests. The gate is cleverly designed, and it looks as if it is swung open by a wooden cart pulled by an ox. To boost country's charm, a genuine stoneroller is set right in the foyer, giving off the sweet fragrance of fresh corn flour.

Mr. Chen, the owner, opened this small restaurant in his family property nine years ago. When the restaurant was first open, it served only country food, such as corn buns, corn porridge, cooked wheat, vegetable dumplings, cake made of glutinous rice flour and other common fare. Chen was pleasantly surprised by its growing popularity among the urban people. Soon enough, even all the leading local celebrities have started to pay regular visits. Perhaps there is magic in the name after all!

Food of the Peasants

The thick menu includes all kinds of dishes of many styles. But if you fail to try the food made of coarse grain, then it is a wasted trip. The restaurant provides traditional peasant home cooking of the Loess Plateau of north Shaanxi, the Central Shaanxi Plain and north of the Weihe River.

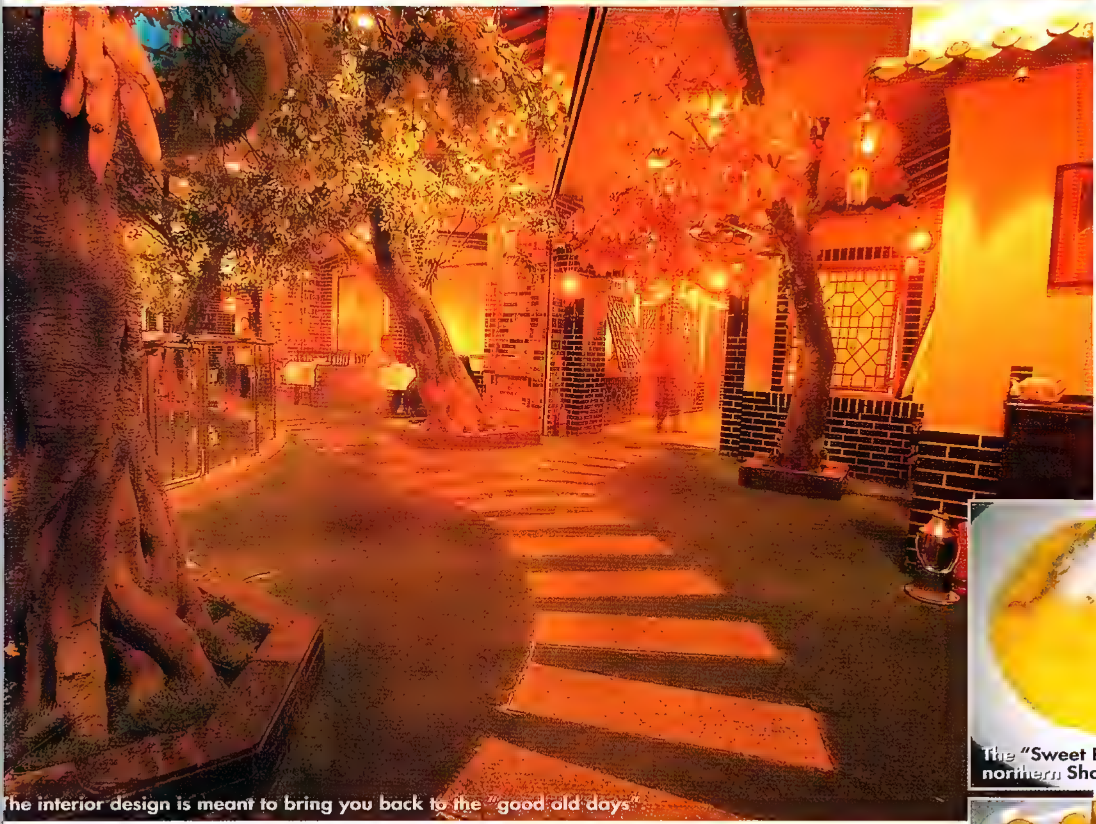
The grains were simply processed and

The kids are lovin' it!

*Xi'an is the provincial capital of Shaanxi we ate all the chaff and bran. It was really difficult for us to swallow at first, but since we were very hungry, so we cleared everything in sight. We ate wild herbs and flora in every dish, such as wheat food made of locust tree flowers and elm fruit. No doubt this gave the peasants a healthy dose of vitamins and coarse fibre, but they lacked vital nourishment from oil, fish, eggs, and meat. As a result, they had pale faces and rough skin and it seemed that their stomachs were never full.

on't let the trees fool you! This is an indoor restaurant.

The "ox and cart" becomes a popular decoration in many restaurants in Xi'an (photo by Shi Baoxiu)


he interior design is meant to bring you back to the "good old days"

Today most Chinese people can afford to eat many kinds of delicacies. Wealthier folk can even spend the total annual salary of an ordinary worker on just one meal. Although they may appear to have good complexions, they are by no means healthy. Over-eating and dietary imbalances can lead to other illnesses, some of them fatal. Nutrition experts and doctors warn people to eat more vegetables and coarse food as part of a healthy diet.

Growing with Health Food

Mr. Chen has expanded his business with two hotels. The New Taoyuan Villa, in the north of Xi'an, is a traditional courtyard style building, a place for urban people to find rural tranquility. The other hotel, Dongjin Taoyuan Holiday Villa, is in the suburbs of north Xi'an, set among up to hundred hectares of farmland. It is a base for the production of vegetables, melons, crops, eggs and meat. It produces special products, such as cube watermelon and mini tomatoes. Chickens, ducks, cattle, sheep, pigs and other domestic animals are also raised here.

In Xi'an, many restaurants are decorated with carts pulled by oxen. The special local dishes first served by the Wenhao Zaliang Restaurant have become popular in other restaurants. At the same time, regional restaurants with local cuisine, such as Ganzhou and Pucheng restaurants, are mushrooming, making the city a gourmet's delight.

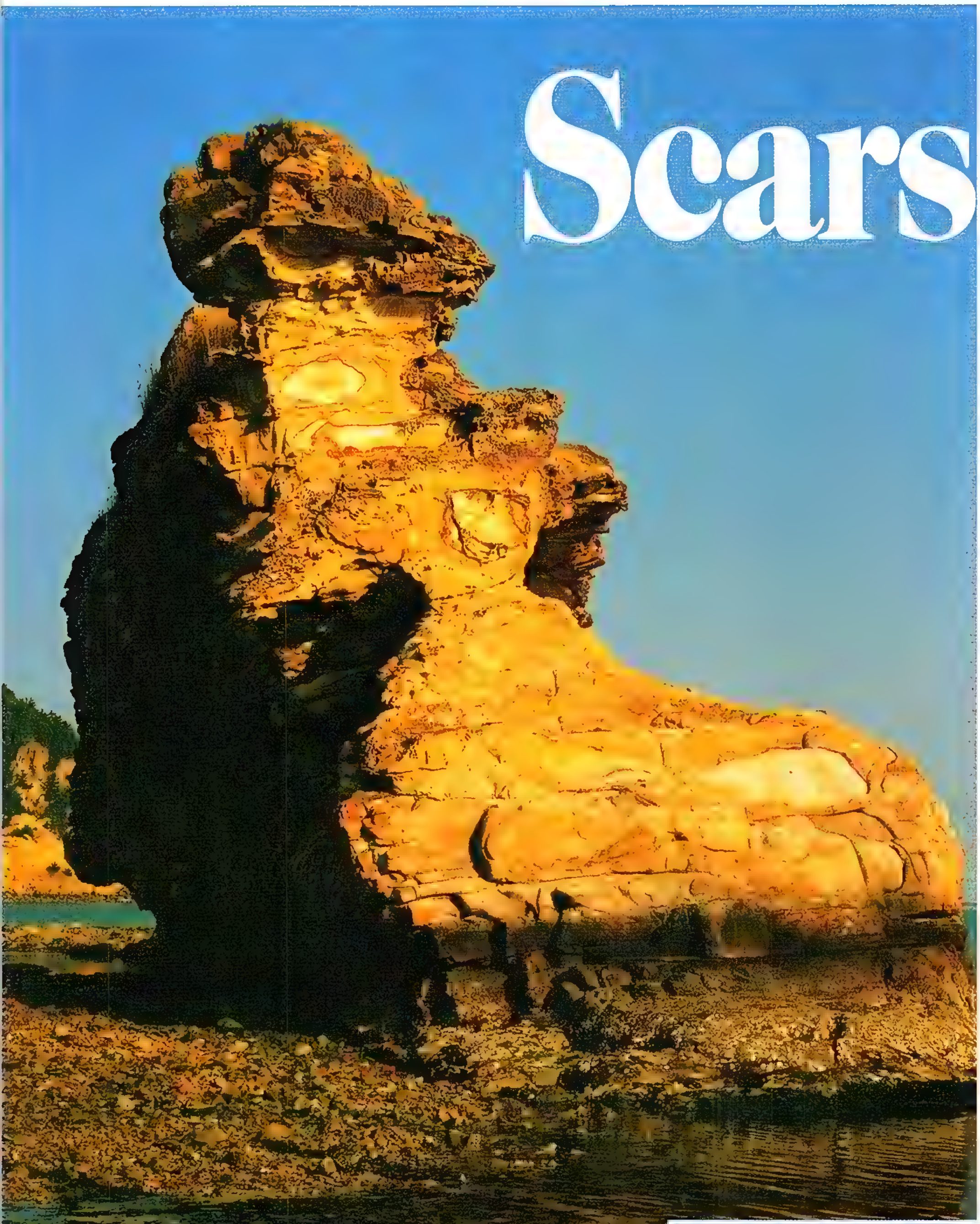
Translated by Wang Zenfeng

Wenhao Zaliang Restaurant

✂ No. 2 Nanerhuanlu
Zhongduan, Xi'an
☎ (029) 522 2222, 526 5555

The "Sweet Rice" is made from grains in northern Shaanxi (photo by Shi Baoxiu)

Peasant food of northern Shaanxi (photo by Shi Baoxiu)



Scars of The Past

Photos and Article by Lan Yanze

None of us is fortunate enough to witness the magnificent volcano explosion that happened billions of years ago, but nature has left us enough evidences to tell most of the story. The oddly shaped but spectacular rocks along the eastern coastline of Rongcheng City (Shandong Province) are one of the many clues.

Geologists can learn about past volcanic activities by studying the layers and patterns of these spongy-looking rocks. These rocks, or tuffs, were formed billions of years ago by a series of explosive volcanic eruptions. Plug of volcanic magma, which was composed of gas bubbles, crystals, molten rock, and rock fragments, shot out like a monstrous tongue from the depths of the crater, and it was thrown high into the atmosphere where it cooled in the air and fell to earth

as a blanket of ash. The ash slowly consolidated and formed tuffs, and these tuffs were then interspersed with more ash-fall layers from later eruptions. The intense heat and pressure eventually turned these material into solid rocks, and the porosity of the rocks was depended on the extent of welding, and how fast the layers cooled.

After billions of years of erosion by waves, rains and wind, the tuffs are finally transformed into the convoluted creatures today. Eerie and magical, the rocks show maze-like patterns, brilliant shapes and hues. Not only they are animated canvases that inspire endless imagination, but they are also the testimonies to the merciless and never-ending powers of erosion.

Translated by Maggie Lam

Honlloween

Do HK'ers Know How to Haunt?

Photos by Chan Yat Nin Article by Maggie Lam

Being the most westernized Asian city, Hong Kong would have similar celebration on Halloween like other western countries, right?

Well, yes and no.

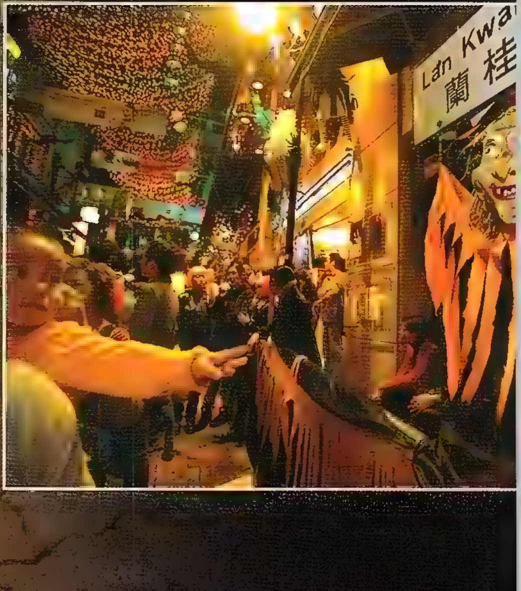
Although HK'ers would roam the beer gardens in costumes at the trendy bar district (Lan Kwai Fong) at night, none of them would expect their superiors have the sense of humor to dress up as Dilbert's pointy-haired boss at work.

Costumes parties? Yes.

Spiders, ghosts, skulls? Check.

Trick-or-treat? Forget it.

Halloween in HK isn't exactly for the kiddies.



Blame it on Asian's conservative genes. Halloween is no Chinese New Year, and the festival is only partially in Asian's blood. School dance and office costume contest are unlikely, but there is one giant celebration that attracts tens of thousands of people to Lan Kwai Fong every year.

From horror movies to Gothic castles, wild parties at this well known bar district abound, and they turned this cozy middle class hangout into an amusing hell. Everyone is welcome to join the beer gardens and costume parade. Enter at your own risk...

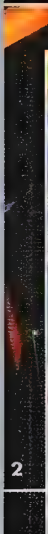
The Slowest Costume Parade

Artificial appendages secured, fake wounds filled with ketchup and hair sprayed silver, you just spent couple hours doing last minute touch-ups to complete that perfect monster look. Ready to party? Not yet, not before another two-hours of line up.

Since the death of the tens of partygoers who died in stampede at Lan Kwai Fong's overcrowded and steep lane couple years ago, the traffic control officers have been on full alert ever since. Even though the bar district is only several blocks away from the metro railway, but it may take up to a few hours to move pass the barricades that are designed to slow the people flow.

This year was no different. Because people were stuck anyway, the bored crowd would look for any excuses to cheer and howl: amusing costumes, sweaty security guards, or celebrities in disguised. The line up, or the "costume parade", actually turned out to be a pretty good warm up for the real thing.

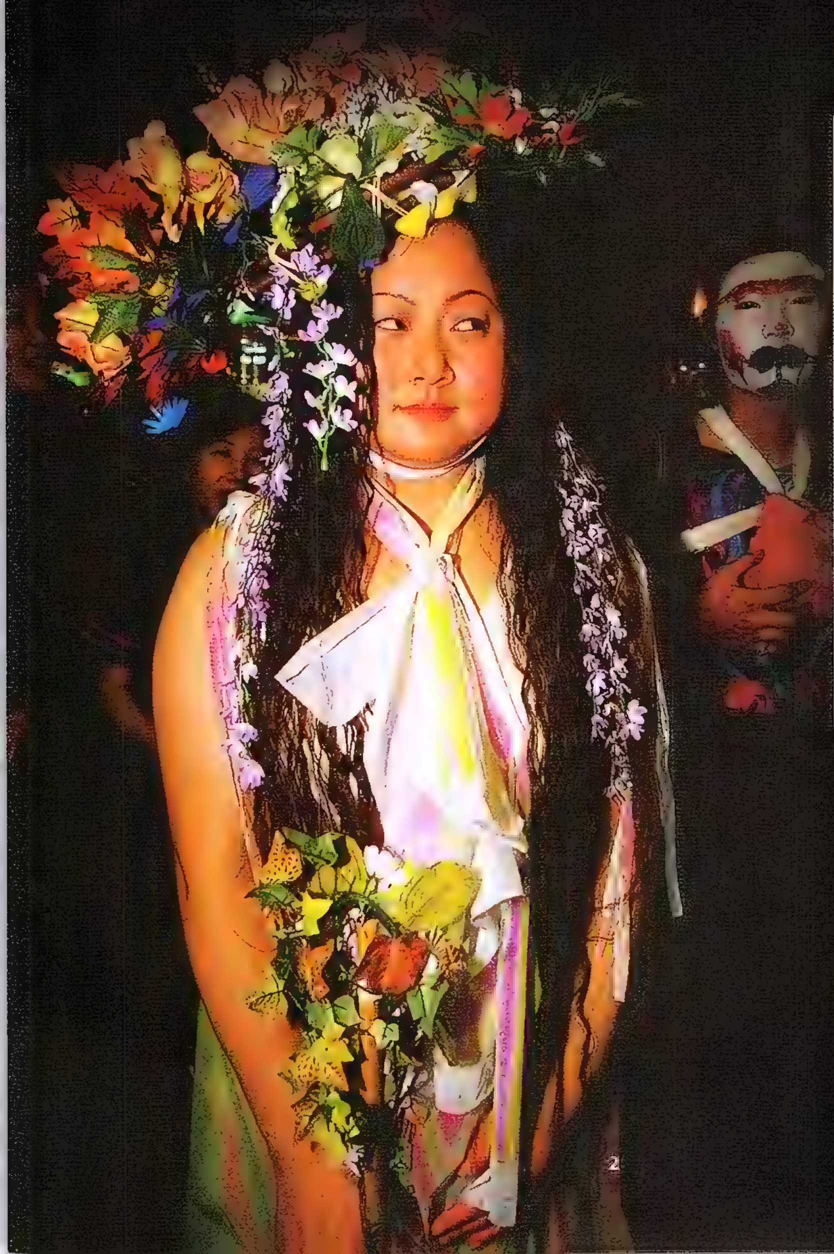
1. **Love knows no bound?**
2. **From horror movies to Gothic castles, wild parties at this well known bar district (Lan Kwai Fong) abound, and they turned this cozy middle class hangout into an amusing hell.**
3. **Just a word of caution though. This Halloween is definitely not for the faint of heart, or for the very young, for some of the make-ups were downright spooky.**
4. **The current bad guy, Osama Bin Laden, who might need to stay away from the US, finally found a place to relax in HK.**



Devils Are Risen

Apparently, people loved the visual feast, for the streets were filled with monsters they knew and loved: Dracula, werewolves and Frankenstein; of course, there were the famous characters from horror movies such as the dead girl in "The Ring", "Friday the 13th"'s Jason, "A Nightmare on Elm Street"'s Freddy, "Scream"'s ghoulish white mask, "Star War"'s Devil; last but not least, the make-ups of some zombies and mummies could be disturbingly scary.... prepare to see plenty of blood and sunken-in eyes. Then again, there were some less daunting characters, like the native Indians, aliens, ETs, and fortunetellers...

All in all, the costume parade never failed to garner a combination of wide-eyed curiosity and shudders. Some cunning restaurants even made up its creative menu of hilarious yet gross food: serving spaghetti as guts, Jello as slime and black grapes as bugs.



1. **This guy with the giant condom suit was blinded by camera's flashes non-stop throughout the nights.**
2. **Atypical "flower girl"**
3. **Native Indian chief**
4. **The character from horror movies came alive: the dead girl in "The Ring".**
5. **The costume parade never failed to garner a combination of wide-eyed curiosity and shudders, and sometimes, giggles.**

Pranksters Outnumbered

Despite Halloween's growing popularity, it seemed that spectators outnumbered the real pranksters by far. Out of the tens of thousands of people who gathered at Lan Kwai Fong last month, only less than one-tenth were dressed up, and further still, less than one-tenth of those were fully dressed up.

Majority of the crowd was too shy to put on a full gear, let alone outrageous costumes that attracted extra attention. They preferred to wear a pair of bunny ears here or a pair of devil's horns there. Some invested in a mask, while others simply smeared bloody red lipstick all over their faces.

Even the children were tamed and meek. No kid in HK would bug you for candies or choices of costumes. All dolled up as angels, cute bunnies, and Harry Potter, the few kids seen on streets were accompanied by their photo-crazed parents, whom couldn't seem to stop themselves from taking snap shots at their kids every 15 seconds.

HK'ers might still need more time to master the haunting tricks; nevertheless, Halloween has brought a breath of fresh air to HK after all. How often could they impress each other in clothing other than Armani, LV and the like?

4

5

BITS AND PIECES OF HAINAN

The second largest island in China, Hainan (also known as the Coconut City) has monsoon tropical climate with annual average temperature of 22°C-26°C.

It is the southernmost province in China located in the South China Sea, and the west of the island borders the Gulf of Tonkin, with Vietnam visible in the west across Beibu Bay. The east of the island is near to Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the Philippines is in southeast. With sea on three sides, over half the thousand-mile long coastline of Hainan island is composed of beaches that are several hundred to several thousand feet wide (the seawater has an average temperature of 20°C), making this place a tropical paradise filled with coconut palms.

Hainan became a separate province in 1988 and its provincial capital is Haikou, with a population of 550,000.

Culture

Hainan culture is the combination of traditional culture of mainland China, the culture of the border areas of south China and foreign cultures. On one hand, it maintains its traditional culture forms, such as Qiong Opera, Junpo Festival, Huanghua Festival, dragon and lion dances. On the other hand, it absorbs modern culture forms, such as Karaoke, KTV, singing and dancing performance, golf, bowling, sailing and surfing. Tourists can not only appreciate bamboo pole dance and coconut shell dance, but also play golf and go sailing on the sea.

Highlight

With the project of becoming one of the Top Tourist Cities in China, the tourist market here is disciplined and its entertainment amazing. Coconut series and four kinds of famous Hainan dishes with local flavors (Wenchang Chicken, Dongshan Mutton, Jiaji Duck, and Hele Crab) are available to tourists in hotels and restaurants. Nightlife is colorful in Haikou. You can easily get access to amusement programs, recreational parks, nightclubs and shopping. The price for taxi ranges from $8 RMB to $15 RMB.

GETTING THERE

Since Hainan is also China's largest Special Economic Zone, its upgrading to a province brought a transfusion of domestic and foreign capital which has helped build expressways, ports, airports, power stations, telecommunication systems etc.

Airport

Hainan has two civilian airports, of which Haikou Meilan Airport has opened to the airlines to Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and Burma as well as to the capitals of the important provinces and cities of China.

The Sanya Phoenix Airport has opened to the airlines to Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Seoul, Osaka, Tokyo, Siberia, Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan, totalling 10 international airlines and routes to 23 cities of China.

The two airports have opened in total more than 70 domestic and international air routes. The Airport Expressway is linked with Haiyu Expressway (from Haikou to Sanya), Haiwen Expressway (from Haikou to Wenchang) and the to-be ring road of the island.

Haikou Meilan Airport

City	Address	Airlines	Tel
Haikou	22 Nanhang Road (E)	China Eastern Airlines	6671 4467
	No.6 Jichang Road	Air China	6677 7854 6678 0099
	G/F Zhonghang Dasha 15 Longkun Beilu	China Southern Airlines	24 hour hotline 6670 0803

Sanya Phoenix International Airport

City	Address	Airlines	Tel
Sanya	1/F Chuangye Dasha	China Southern Airlines	8825 9413 8825 9414

ACCOMMODATION

The most popular tourist attractions on Hainan island are Haikou and Sanya. To avoid the crowd, try to reserve your room through Internet or look for discount before you travel. Most of the hotels are built by the gorgeous beaches, and you shall not miss the sunshine and the tropical beauty.

Boao Golden Coast Hot Sprint Hotel ★★★★★
8 Golden Coast Avenue, Boao, Qionghai
Tel: (898) 2778 888
Fax: (898) 2778 899

Crowne Plaza Hainan Spa & Beach Resort ★★★★★
No.1 Qiongshan Avenue, Qiongshan New city
Tel: (898) 6596 6888
Fax: (898) 6596 0666

Golden Coast Lawton Hotel ★★★★★
Haikou 68 Renmin Ave., Haikou
Tel: (898) 6259 888
Fax: (898) 6258 889

Gloria Resort Sanya ★★★★★
Yalong Bay, Sanya
Tel: (8988) 8568 855
Fax: (898) 8568 533

Hong Yun Hotel ★★★
Haikou 15 Haixiu Road, Haikou
Tel: (898) 6779 9888
Fax: (898) 6771 1816

Pearl Seaview Hotel Sanya ★★★
Dadonghai, Sanya
Tel: (8988) 8213 838
Fax: (8988) 8215 822

Haikou Tower Hotel ★★★
Binhai Road, Haikou
Tel: (898) 6772 990
Fax: (898) 6773 966

CHINA VISA	Visitors from countries and regions with diplomatic or official relations with China who wish to stay within Hainan Province for 15 days on business or pleasure can obtain a travel visa upon arrival at the ports of Haikou and Sanya. Visitors wishing to stay more than 15 days can apply for an extension to their visa with appropriate reasons supplied to authorities. In addition, according to the relevant regulations, the travellers are allowed to stay Hainan within 15 days without China Visa, if they have organized group tour in Hainan Island by the certified travel agencies, and are from these 21 countries, i.e., Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Korea, Philippines, Indonesia, Germany, England, France, Australia, Italy, Russia, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Holland, America, Canada, Austria and New Zealand. Residents of Hong Kong and Macau and overseas Chinese can enter Hainan Province using their Chinese passport or other certified travel documents. Residents of Taiwan can apply for a special single-entry travel certificate at the ports of Haikou or Sanya.
CHINA CUSTOMS	Visitors entering Hainan Province must declare goods to Customs and produce proper certification for each individual item declared. All items listed in a declaration must have correct details such as quantity, weight, value and purpose. For more information on China Customs requirements, please telephone (898) 8516 888.
CHINA CURRENCY	Most currencies can be exchanged for Chinese Renminbi (or Yuan) at any branches of Bank of China and most hotels.

DEC / JAN

Date: Nov 25 – 27
Place: Rongshui, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

A symphony orchestra of one hundred people seems impressive, but can you imagine having a team of 1,500 musicians to perform simultaneously? If not, don't miss out on the **Lusheng Festival**!

Lusheng is a reed-type wind musical instrument that ranges from less than half a meter to over three meters long; Miao ethnic groups in southern China often play it when celebrating harvest and paying tribute to ancestors.

The three-day festival attracts about 200,000 visitors every year!

http://www.chinaplanner.com/culture/festival/ft_lf.htm

Dates: Jan 1
Place: Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province

When the New Year arrives, the local residents in Hangzhou would **strike the bells at the Jingci Temple**, to kick start the New Year celebration. As soon as the bells are struck, people will perform dragon and lion dances. Visitors may board on the luxurious boats that are decorated with colourful lanterns to sightsee the West Lake as well as to enjoy the beautiful music and scenery.

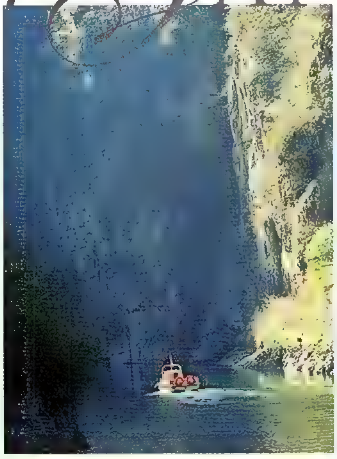
http://www.chinats.com/hangzhou/attr29.htm

Dates: Jan 5 – Feb 5
Place: Harbin City, Heilongjiang Province

Do you like ice hockey, alpine or cross-country skiing? Welcome to Heilongjiang, the northernmost and the coldest province in China.

The one-month **Harbin Ice and Snow Festival** will offer a wide variety of winter sport games and performances. There will be the international ice lantern and snow sculpture exhibitions, polar bear swim, film festival, exhibitions of painting, calligraphy and photography, performances of folk songs and dances, trade fairs, and last but not least, even wedding ceremonies will be held on ice.

http://www.whatsonwhen.com/events/~24299.jml



Dates: Jan 15 – Feb 29
Place: Longqing Gorge in Yanqing County, Beijing

If you are a first time traveller to China, don't miss the **Beijing Longqing Gorge Ice and Snow Fesitval** this winter. Not only can you enjoy displays of ice lanterns, fireworks, performances and winter sports, but you may also participate in the ice and snow revelry festival, visit the Great Wall at Badaling and the Kangxi grasslands.

http://www.china-travelguide.com/english/attractions/beijing/longqing_gorge/

Date: Dec 5 – 14
Place: Nanjing, Jiangsu Province

The second **Stagecraft Exhibition of China** will demonstrate major achievements in modern arts of film, television and stage that feature drama, opera, songs and dances, acrobatics and puppetry. The first such exhibition was held in Beijing in 1982, and this time the exhibition is jointly sponsored by the art department under China's Ministry of Culture, the Chinese Stagecraft Society and the culture department of Jiangsu provincial government.

http://www.china.org.cn/english/culture/70928.htm

Date: Jan 19 – 21
Place: Guangzhou, Guangdong Province

The **Spring Flower Fair** is held several days right before the Chinese New Year, and it is a unique tradition to Guangzhou citizens. During the fair, flower farmers will set up huge flower show along Guangzhou's major streets, and all citizens will be there to pick out their favorite blossoms.

http://www.chinavista.com/experience/flower/flower.html

Dates: Early Jan
Place: Jilin, Jilin Province

What's in a **Jilin Rime Festival**? Many grand ice and colourful lantern shows, ice and snow games, ceremony of releasing lanterns on the river, fireworks and boats parade. While the locals will be performing the northeastern Yangge dance, Manchu and Korean will celebrate their own folk festivals concurrently. Also, this exhibition of delicious northeastern cuisine will not disappoint even the most meticulous eaters. Bon appetite!

http://chinaplanner.com/snowtour

HIGHLIGHTS OF ISSUE NO. 282

Feature Story: The Largest Tropical Rain Forest of China

Inhabited by over ten ethnic communities (Tai, Hani, Bulang, Jinuo, Yao etc.), Xishuangbanna is the best-protected tropical rain forest in China. This region combines heavenly greenery and exotic cultures of various ethnic minorities, and it gives off a distinctive primal scent. In our next issue, we'd show you how the locals catch wild elephants, how the women lure city men, how an ex-monk transforms himself to be a smooth-talking businessman...

Challenges: National Nature Reserve in Xinjiang

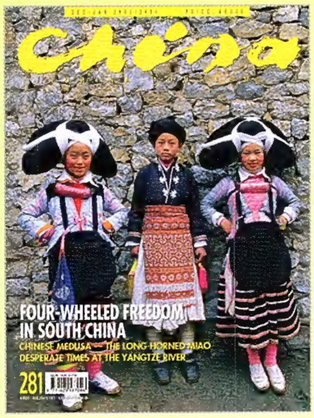
The huge mountains surrounding Altun Shan National Nature Reserve, once nicknamed the dead zone, have hindered many adventurers for years. However, rare gems are saved for those who boldly go where no one has gone before. Our reporter will unveil the curtain of this mysterious region for you...

On the Way: An Ancient Water Village (Zhujiajiao) in Shanghai

Inside the giant metropolis of Shanghai, there has preserved an old water town, Zhujiajiao, for several centuries. Undisturbed by the city havoc, the villagers still keep their traditional ways of living. It seems impossible to believe that this place was once the commercial centre of Shanghai, but the canals in town give us a different picture. The well-situated channels made the town an ideal trading place, and thus provided a perfect birthplace for a commercial city.

Profile: Struggling Artist in HK

Shui Hetian seems to have what every artist could ever ask for: talent, drive and fame, except for one thing, funding. In a commercialized city like HK, living as an artist needs to make many compromises unless one has a deep pocket. Artistic value is simply no match for circulation volume. Still, Shui has kept his burning passion to pursue and share beauty through his creations for several decades. He doubled as a salesman and lived frugally in order to support his artwork...


China
FOUR-WHEELED FREEDOM IN SOUTH CHINA
CHINESE MEDUSA — THE LONG-HORNED MIAO
DESPERATE TIMES AT THE YANGTZE RIVER
281

Readership Survey

China Tourism always appreciates feedback from its readers. In accordance with your suggestions, we have recently added a variety of new columns. Still, we need to know more of your opinions, including criticisms and suggestions. Please take a couple of minutes to complete this questionnaire and return it to us. Thank you!

Please give your evaluation of the stories in this issue and your overall impression of *China Tourism*.

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Four-Wheeled Freedom in South China	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The Long-Horned Miao	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Desperate Times at the Yangtze River	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The Qin-Jin Yellow River Canyon	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Yang Zhiming — A Lifelong "Journey"	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Others:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Photographs	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cover	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Articles	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Tips for the Traveller	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Art Design	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Other Opinions: ______________________________

____

Name: (Mr./Ms./Mrs.) ______________________________
Address: ______________________________
______________________________ Country: ______________
Age: ____________ Occupation: ____________ Number of trips to China in the last 5 years: ____________

Where (how) did you first see *China Tourism*?

☐ Subscription ☐ Newsstand or bookstore
☐ Hotel Name: ____________________ ☐ Others ____________________

Main purpose for reading *China Tourism*?

☐ Planning trips ☐ General interest in China's customs, scenery, etc. ☐ Business
☐ Tourist Trade purposes ☐ Others ______________________________

What do you like most about *China Tourism*?

____

Are you happy with the factual content of *China Tourism*? ☐ Yes ☐ No

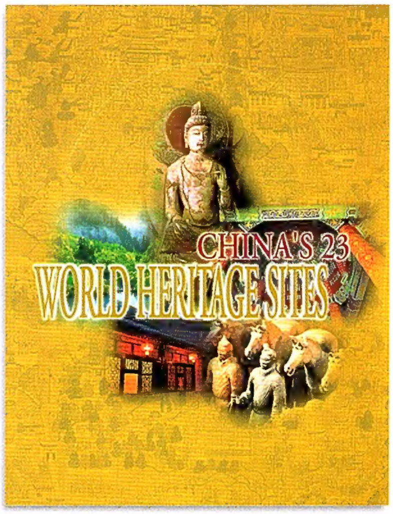
What are your suggestions for improvement?

____

Thank you for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire. It provides us with invaluable feedback which will help us improve *China Tourism* magazine for you.

*Please mail this questionnaire to our office at 24/F, Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong, or fax to (852) 2561 8196.

China's 23 World Heritage Sites



Today, more than 580 cultural and natural sites have been placed on UNESCO's World Heritage list. China, one of the world's four ancient civilisations, also has its share of these heritage sites. Up to 1999, 23 sites in the country have been honourably put on the list. These include the Mountain Resort in Chengde, the Temple of Heaven, the Ruins of Zhoukoudian, the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, the ancient city of Pingyao, Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum in Xi'an, Wulingyuan, Huanglong, Jiuzhaigou, Mount Emei, the ancient town of Lijiang, Potala Palace, Mount Wudang, Mount Taishan, Confucius' Temple, Mansion and Cemetery in Qufu, Suzhou Gardens, Mount Huangshan, Mount Lushan, Mount Wuyi and Dazu Rock Carvings.

In this book, *China's 23 World Heritage Sites*, you can delight in the beauty of each one of these sites. Incredibly gorgeous pictures together with a practical travel guide add to the book's comprehensive nature and make it a great gift for you and your friends.

Original Book Price: HK$180
Now Less 20% discount: **HK$144 / US$18.50**

	Hong Kong	P.R.C., Taiwan and Macao	Overseas (Asia except Japan)	Overseas (Japan and non-Asian areas)
Book Price	HK$144 / US$18.50			
Postage per book (surface plus registered mail)	HK$24	HK$33 / US$4.50	HK$45 / US$6	HK$47 / US$6
Total	HK$168	HK$177 / US$23.00	HK$189 / US$24.50	HK$191 / US$24.50

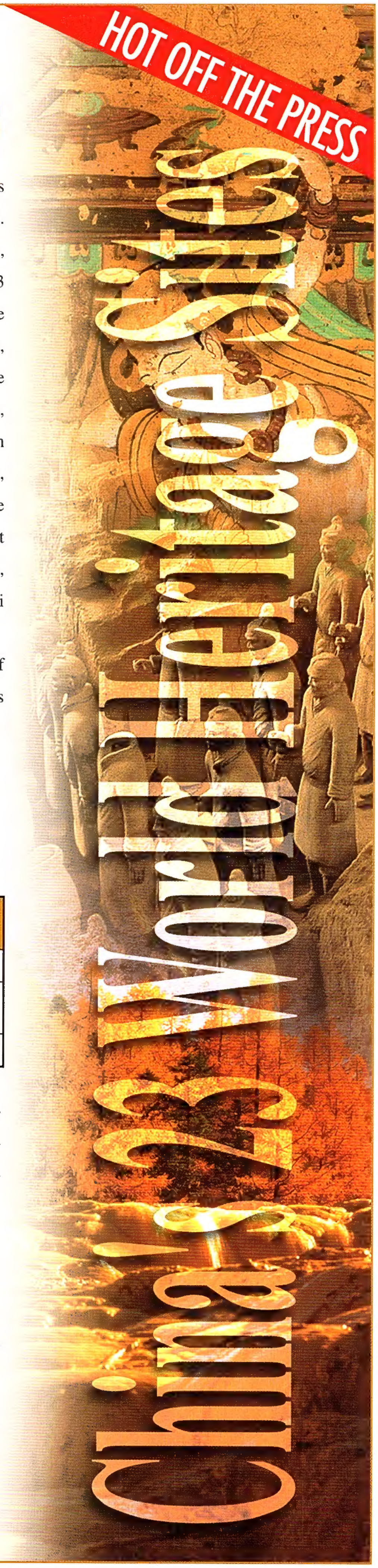
Name of Subscriber: Mr/Ms/Mrs ____________________
Address: ____________________
____________________ Daytime Tel: ____________________

Payment Method:

To pay by cheque, please make cheque payable to "HONG KONG CHINA TOURISM PRESS".
By credit card: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTER ☐ AE
Name of cardholder: Mr/Ms/Mrs ____________________
Card No.: ____________________ Expiry Date: __________

Signature: ____________________

Please mail this form to "Hong Kong China Tourism Press"
24/F Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong, or fax to (852) 2561 8196
For more information, please call our subscription department at (852) 2561 8001.



ProCam-Fis®
Ultimate Travel Outfits

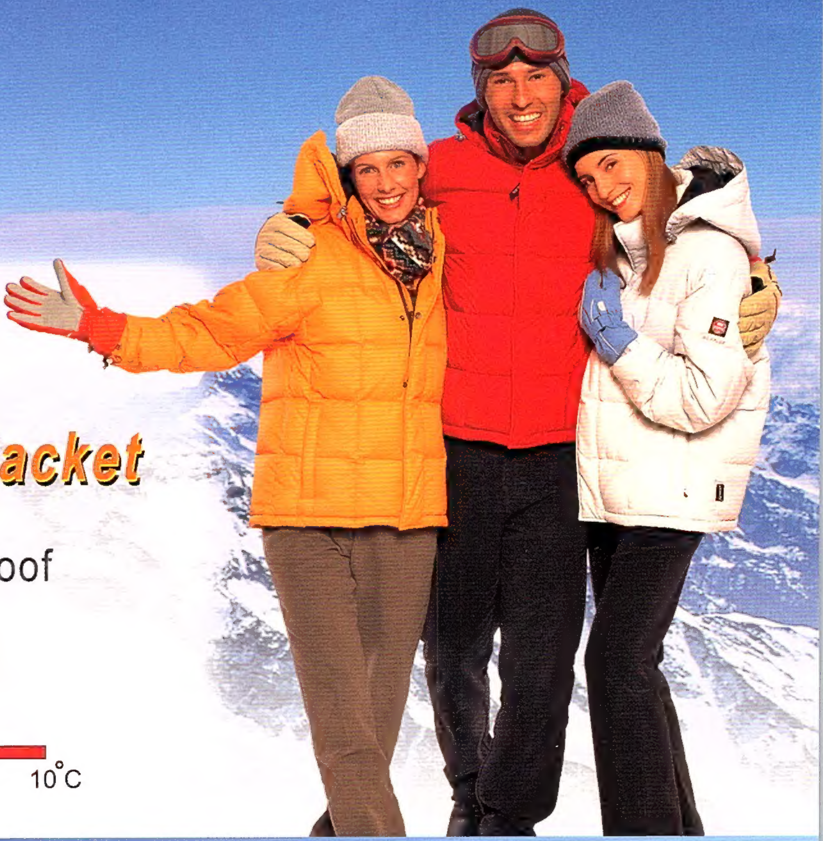
輕暖冬日

羽眾不同

New Improved !!

6L・PLUS Down Jacket

1. **WINDSTOPPER®** WIND STOPPER Windproof
2. 20% less weight
3. Comfortable range -10°C 0°C 10°C



Warm in your heart offer

FREE With any purchase of HK$3,500*

HK$89 With any purchase of HK$2,500*

*Only valid for regular-priced items Whilst stock lasts

Bucky Hotties Neckwrap

Comfort for shoulders and neck

bucky
Hotties

Made in U.S.A.

Original Price ~~HK$320~~

Our company reserves the right of final decision of all promotional offers

Customer Service Hotline: 2942 2608 www.procam-fis.com.hk
028 City Plaza · 602 Times Square · D2-4 Queensway Plaza · 265 Ocean Centre
G45 Park Lane Shopper's Blvd · L2-45 Festival Walk · 402-3 Phase 1 New Town Plaza